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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Confirms Determination To Wage Intifadah

LD2711212190 Algiers Voice of Palestine 1702 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Brother President leader Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine, stressed that our Palestinian people, led by the PLO, are determined to continue the sacred jihad as well as their heroic struggle and intifadah to defend their sanctities. They will not hesitate to offer everything that is dear to them to safeguard themselves and protect their holy places. They will not allow Israeli sovereignty to be imposed on Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine.

In a message addressed to the memorial service for the martyrs of Al-Aqsa which was held yesterday at the Hakawati Theater in occupied Jerusalem and read by brother Hashim Mahamid, the brother president leader said:

We will continue our struggle until our flag is hoisted in Jerusalem, the capital of our state. Around 600 people who attended the memorial service shouted "Long live Fatah" and "Long live Abu Ammar", and stood in silence for a minute. Later brother Faysal al-Husayni delivered a speech in which he stressed that the repercussions of the Palestinian intifadah were being witnessed in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon, and that there is no doubt that they will extend further.

'Arafat Meets With UN Security Council Envoys

LD2811133490 Rabat MAP in English 1254 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, Nov 28, (MAP)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat conferred Tuesday [27 November] here separately with ambassadors of the permanent members of the UN Security Council on the serious situation in the Gulf, the occupied territories, Lebanon and in other Arab countries, Palestinian news agency WAFA said.

'Arafat had briefed on the occasion the ambassadors on the efforts exerted to find a political settlement to the Gulf crisis and drew their attention to the seriousness of the U.S. move to make UNO [United Nations Organization] adopt a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq unless it withdraws from Kuwait before a fixed deadline, WAFA said.

In this respect, 'Arafat called on the UNO to adopt a similar resolution setting a deadline for Israel to withdraw from the occupied Palestine pursuant to UN Resolutions 342 and 338, as well as for an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

PFLP Official Promises More Attacks on Israel

NC2811181790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has announced its resolve to escalate its military operations against Israel in support of the Intifadah.

Abu-Jabir, the PFLP official in Lebanon, expects Israel to retaliate against Lebanon. He said that neither Syria nor the Lebanese Government had prior knowledge of yesterday's operation.

Increased 'Resistance' Likely if Iraq Attacked

JN2811165790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, 28 Nov (INA)—The PLO has warned the United States about escalation and the sweeping wrath of the Arab masses if it were to entertain the idea of harming the Arabs, launching an unjust aggression against Iraq, and going to extremes in its contempt of legitimate Arab rights.

At a news conference here today attended by Arab and foreign news agency correspondents, Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, said that the Arab masses which are furious with the United States would become even more furious and step up their resistance against U.S. and Zionist interests in Palestine and all over the Arab homeland.

Abu-Sharif asserted that the heroic operations carried out by a soldier from Arab Egypt, a Lebanese woman, and Palestinian fedayeen against Zionist targets reflect a practical translation of the Arab masses' anger with the United States' hostility toward the Arab nation.

Bassam Abu-Sharif renewed the PLO's call for the UN Security Council [UNSC] member states to set a deadline for an end to the Zionist occupation of Arab territories in Palestine, Lebanon, and the Golan to put into practice the international legitimacy whose praises the United States and its allies are singing.

The PLO official said he rejected the UNSC's efforts to apply the hostile U.S. resolutions against the Arab nation at a time when it deliberately overlooks the Palestine question and fails to take a firm position toward Zionist practices which contravene international law and human rights principles. He added: If it were serious in its efforts to enforce international legitimacy, the UNSC would immediately call for an international conference on the Middle East conflict to be attended by all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Possible Iraqi Withdrawal From Kuwait Examined

NC2811175490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1646 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, 28 Nov (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has lauded Egypt's reaction to the remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir concerning Israel's retention of the occupied territories to absorb new Jewish immigrants.

At a news conference he held in Tunis today, Abu-Sharif described Egypt's position and the remarks by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in this regard as perfectly clearly. Egypt, he said, has denounced Shamir's remarks and confirmed its unshifting support for the Palestinian people and their right for an independent state.

Abu-Sharif said that 'Arafat is staying in touch with President Mubarak and also with Gulf leaders, particularly King Fahd. He noted that Saudi Arabia has not halted its assistance to the PLO and that Palestinians living in Saudi Arabia have not been harassed in any way.

Concerning the Gulf crisis, Abu-Sharif said that the PLO has not supported the aggression [lam tu'ayyid al-'udwan] but is trying to avoid a war in the region.

Abu-Sharif said that 'Arafat has produced a new formula of proposals to resolve the Gulf crisis and sent it to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and to Arab leaders. Abu-Sharif said that he still believes that "it is still possible" to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis and avoid war.

Abu-Sharif refused to disclose the content of the Palestinian proposals or the formula for the political solution to the Gulf crisis. He said that revealing the details of these proposals does not serve the goal of finding a political solution. However, he mentioned that the proposals are based on the UN Security Council resolutions.

Abu-Sharif said: We are trying to build bridges and close the rift between the concerned parties as a prelude for a meeting between Baghdad and Riyadh. He confirmed that Iraq is willing to withdraw from Kuwait if negotiations start to resolve the Gulf crisis.

Abu-Sharif noted that a Palestinian delegation led by Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh has recently visited Kuwait to examine the deteriorating conditions of the Palestinians living there. He noted that 120,000 Palestinians have left Kuwait since 2 August.

He said that 'Arafat's meeting with the Soviet, Chinese, French, and British ambassadors in Tunis centered on the need for the Security Council to discuss the issue of setting a date for Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the Council will discuss the issue of setting a date for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the issue of convening an international peace conference in the Middle East. Abu-Sharif said that the Middle East issues are now in one basket. He noted that during the meeting, 'Arafat stressed the need for the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities and adopt the necessary measures for the protection of the Palestinians in occupied territories and for placing these territories under international protection.

Bonn Representative Urges Arab Solution to Gulf

LD2711150490 Berlin ADN International Service in German 1406 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Bonn (ADN)—The PLO representative in Bonn, 'Abdallah al-Franji, has reacted with relief to the latest resolution tabled by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Al-Franji said in a radio interview today he was happy "that the decision is not for immediate war." This offered the chance of further negotiations. In the PLO's view, U.S. President George Bush should at long last have talks with Iraqi head of state Saddam Husayn.

"The PLO favors an Arab solution," said Al-Franji, who is also a member of the PLO Central Committee. It was, however, "irresponsible" to demand a solution to this complex issue within a few days. First of all, the foreign troops should totally withdraw and Iraq should leave Kuwait.

Egyptian Government's 'Self-Delusion' Assailed

LD2811233290 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] East is east and west is west is a saying which simply means that any denial of the origin of things will inevitably clash with reality, sooner or later. This saying is facing the regime ruling Egypt today and beseiges it with a clearer tone and a louder voice. Egypt is an Arab and Islamic country; rather it is in the position of the heart in relation to the Arab nation, with its human weights and heritage of revolution and struggle. It is in the pioneering position in the Islamic world thanks to the existence of the noble Al-Azhar [mosque and university], whose historic role no one denies. Therefore, any deviation on the part of Egypt from Arab and Islamic aspirations, irrespective of any support for it from midget pens, must inevitably clash with the feelings of the Muslim Arab in Egypt. This Egyptian does find its sufficient to grumble, murmur and keep his well-known patience; rather he always moves in order to impose his will and draw attention to his existence. [passage omitted]

After the killing of Sadat, the Egyptian indicator was very clear in rejecting the continuation of Sadat's anti-Arab and anti-Islamic options. The indicator was the continued rejection of normalization with the Zionist enemy and the abortion of such normalization. But the current ruling regime in Egypt has not read the indicators of the Egyptian streets very well and has been lulled

by the apparent calm in the bustling movement of life. Each time it confronted a new indicator, it used to play the game of self-delusion by falsely claiming that what happened was at the hands of the Palestinians. Then it believed its lies and felt assured. This happened when free Egyptians attacked a Zionist tourist bus on the Ismai'liyah road. This also happened when the speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly was assassinated; investigation by the regime itself has shown that the intended victim was the minister who is in charge of the policy of oppression, detention, and pursuit of any voice which rejects the regime's inclinations. Yet the Egyptian regime was not able to read these indicators until the Zionist terrorist Kahana was assassinated in the United States at the hands of an Egyptian citizen. But Egypt washed its hands of its citizen and announced that it had no record of a citizen with this name. This time also Egypt believed its lie and continued to pursue the policy of contradicting the feelings and will of the Islamic Arab people of Egypt.

Today the news brings a bigger and more significant indicator: An Egyptian soldier crossed the border with the Zionist enemy and opened fire at a Zionist patrol, killing four people and wounding 24 others—six of whom were seriously injured—and then returned to his position on the Egyptian border, a border which the Egyptian citizen understands only as a border of confrontation with Israel's expansionist will. Will the Egyptian president and his regime pick up this clear signal, or will they insist on turning a blind eye to the truth which was confirmed by the demonstrations in the streets of Cairo in protest at the visit of Bush to Egypt in preparation for the aggression against Iraq in order to deal a blow to its strength which the free Arabs are storing for the confrontation with the Zionist enemy? Will the Egyptian president pick up the loud signal sent by the free sons of Egypt, or will he insist on stubbornly maintaining Sadat's line? Will he then hope for an end which differs very much from Sadat's end?

Egypt

Sidqi Pledges 'Fairness' of Electoral Process

NC2811200590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Over 16 million Egyptians will go to polling centers at more than 23,000 electoral districts between 0800 and 1700 tomorrow to select 444 People's Assembly members from among the 2,861 candidates who are contesting the elections either as nominees of political parties or independents. The elections are being held under the individual election system [nizam al-intikhab al-fardi].

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said that the government has made all the necessary preparations to guarantee the neutrality and fairness of the electoral process. Over 2,000 members of the judiciary and prosecution will supervise the elections, he noted.

Dr. Sidqi said that a representative for every candidate will be on the committees supervising the polling process to guarantee its fairness. That representative has the right to submit complaints and any other observations to the head of the general committee or subcommittee in his electoral district.

Dr. Sidqi called on those eligible to vote to show up at the polling centers tomorrow to cast their ballots and participate in political and legislative decisions. Participation in the elections, he said, is tantamount to participation in shaping the country's future and bolstering its economic and social progress.

Dr. Sidqi said that every voter will elect two candidates for every electoral district and that one of these two candidates has to be either a farmer or a worker.

Interior Minister Refutes Claims on Elections

NC2911120790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Reacting to allegations by certain opposition members that the number of judges supervising the elections is not sufficient, Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said a judge can tour a number of polling stations during the elections to ensure the neutrality and integrity of the electoral process. He asserted that the measures applied this year are sound and that every candidate has his own representatives in the polling stations.

He asserted that the police force will not intervene unless the supervising judge requests their intervention, and that the police force is completely neutral.

Responding to opposition claims that the elections are rigged, the minister asked: Why should we rig the election, and for whose benefit? He appealed to the mass media representatives to go to the polling stations to verify his assertions.

Mubarak Casts Vote in People's Assembly Elections

NC2911092190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] President and Mrs. Mubarak cast their votes in the People's Assembly elections this morning at the polling station at the Heliopolis secondary school for girls.

The president was received upon arrival by Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, Cairo Governor Dr. Mahmud Sharif, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Ahad Jamal-al-Din, chairman of the higher council for youth and sports.

Based on a direct election system, voters flowed into the polling stations this morning to cast their votes in the People's Assembly elections and to elect 444 candidates from among 2,861 nominees representing political parties as well as independents.

Gives Interview After Vote

NC2911114290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1002 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Statements by President Husni Mubarak in response to questions from unidentified reporters after casting his vote in the People's Assembly elections in Heliopolis on 29 November—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. President. What is your viewpoint and your personal assessment of the UN Security Council resolution which is expected to be adopted today in connection with the next few months?

[Mubarak] What do you mean? Can you be more specific?

[Reporter] What is your view of the UN Security Council resolution which will be issued today, and which will represent a final warning to Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait?

[Mubarak] All I can say is that I hope that the brothers in Iraq will have a clear picture of the situation. When I discuss the danger, which is bound to lead to destruction, some complain that I am calling for destruction. Regrettably they misinterpret my words. I fear and I warn against the repercussions because the force involved is enormous and some do not realize that. Such a force frightens any state or group of states. What I am saying is that we should wake up and reassess the situation. Nothing is equal to legitimate methods to settle the issue.

[Reporter] Mr. President. What is your view of democracy in Egypt now that certain opposition parties have boycotted the elections?

[Mubarak] Whoever wants to boycott is free to. We instituted the direct election system which they had demanded. When we proposed the absolute list system they said it was unjust. When we proposed the percentage list system they said they would prefer the direct election system. When we proposed merging the percentage list system with the direct election system they said it was unconstitutional. Now we are applying the

direct election system just like other countries. Those who boycotted the elections may have thought that they would not win. However, a large number are participating in the elections. It may be true that party leaders did not take part, but all the parties are taking part. If a party leader tells his party members in the governorates that he is not going to take part in the elections, the members will still take part because they want to do so. What is your concept of democracy? Democracy means that you should participate rather than be negative. There can be no democracy with this negative stand. Negativity gives the ruler the opportunity to take undemocratic measures.

[Reporter] Mr. President. A newspaper published an item today stating that your excellency is studying a Libyan proposal to convene a conference in Geneva to resolve the Gulf crisis. What do you say about Libyan reports that efforts have failed to convene a meeting between King Fahd and President Saddam Husayn?

[Mubarak] I am not studying any proposal. Why should I meet in Geneva? You mean a meeting among the heads of state?

[Reporter] Among the UN Security Council members and the parties to the Gulf dispute.

[Mubarak] I have absolutely not called for such a meeting. The Libyan proposal aimed to bring views closer together. However, the agenda of the meeting was unclear. Accordingly, they achieved nothing. This is my personal view.

[Reporter] Does your excellency believe that we are on the verge of war, that war in the Gulf is unavoidable?

[Mubarak] We can still reach a solution, even an hour before the war breaks out.

[Reporter] What is your comment on the resumption of relations between Britain and Syria, the first step by the new British prime minister?

[Mubarak] We welcome this step. We had an idea that relations were going to be resumed.

[Reporter] About the People's Assembly elections, do you believe that the measures adopted so far are the best ever in Egyptian history to guarantee the freedom of the elections, or is there still room for improvement?

[Mubarak] The measures adopted this year are unprecedented in Egyptian history. Look at the number of judges supervising the elections. Besides, why should you look for judges as a guarantee? The best guarantee is for the citizen to cast his vote and make sure that he votes for the person he really wants. This is the best guarantee. All other matters can be resolved.

[Reporter] Will there be any changes in the government in the near future, within the framework of the new stage?

[Mubarak] This possibility exists.

Mubarak Replaces Forces Commander in Saudi Arabia

NC2911095990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has issued a presidential decree appointing Staff Major General Salah Muhammad 'Atiyah Halabi as commander of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia. He will replace Staff Maj. Gen. Muhammad 'Ali Bilal. The appointment was made in accordance with the Armed Forces' rotation plan. [passage omitted]

Israeli Request To Examine Bus Attacker Rejected

NC2811203190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo has rejected Israel's request that an Israeli security delegation be allowed to follow the interrogation of Ayman Muhammad Hasan, the soldier who attacked the Israeli buses last Wednesday, and to cross examine him.

Egyptian authorities promised to keep the Israelis fully informed of the investigations, but maintained that the investigation is an act of sovereignty and must be conducted by the Egyptian authorities alone.

Saudi, Israeli Defense Ministers Meeting Reported

JN2811191990 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1820 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo—Diplomatic sources have revealed that an unpublicized meeting was recently held in Cairo between the defense minister of the betrayer of the two holy mosques [King Fahd of Saudi Arabia] and Zionist War Minister Moshe Arens.

The sources said that the two coordinated on preparations for an act of aggression against Iraq. The sources added that the Egyptian regime took stringent security measures in preparing for the meeting to ensure its success.

In a related development, informed Egyptian sources disclosed that the betrayer of the two holy mosques pays $1,000 a month to every Egyptian soldier stationed on the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

The sources, which asked for anonymity, added that the Husni authorities transferred the wages of the Egyptian troops to Egyptian banks to disburse a specific percentage of the wages in Egyptian pounds.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi 'No Longer Interested' in Gulf

Said Considering Proposal

EA2811182690 Khartoum SUNA in French 0920 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] [no dateline as received] Mr. (Ramadhan Bashir), the secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum, has launched an appeal to all peace-loving peoples and governments to support a general [as received] to discuss the Gulf crisis in the presence of all countries of the Gulf region and all concerned countries. He added that the leader of the Libyan revolution would present a proposal for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis in order to avoid the dangers of war.

It will be noted that Libya has called on the UN Security Council to meet in Geneva in the face of the call launched by those favoring a military solution to the crisis, which the council (has met) in New York.

Cancels News Conference

NC2811184790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1826 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Nov (MENA)—Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has cancelled the news conference he was expected to hold tonight to explain the outcome of his contacts for working out an honorable Arab-international solution to the Gulf crisis.

'Ali Abu-Jaziyah, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture, said that, as of today, his country is no longer directly or indirectly interested in the Gulf problem.

Cites Fahd Rejection

JN2811192390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] In Tripoli today, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held King Fahd of Saudi Arabia responsible for aborting his attempts to mediate in the Gulf crisis. In a statement to reporters on the leader's behalf, Information Minister 'Ali Abu-Jaziyah said al-Qadhdhafi tried to organize a summit between King Fahd and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn this week but the king backed away at the last moment after the two sides had voiced agreement, according to the statement.

Disavows 'Intransigent' Parties

LD2811204590 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture this evening at the Mahari Hotel in Tripoli read out a news statement to correspondents and journalists of various newspapers and news agencies, as well as correspondents from all parts of the world, on the events in the Arabian Gulf.

At the beginning of the statement, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture welcomed Arab and foreign journalists. The statement said:

Out of the great Jamahiriyah's desire to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf problem which would spare Arabs [illegible] the world the suffering of war and destruction, and in an effort to find an Arab solution that depends on Arab will and serves the interests of the Arab nation, it should have been possible to make this moment a historic one by announcing a peaceful Arab solution backed by international efforts. In this context, the brother leader of the revolution has contacted the concerned parties with a view to convening a meeting between President Saddam Husayn and King Fahd. The brother leader of the revolution has received a response to his efforts, which is the reason for holding this news conference. At the last minute, King Fahd has changed his mind about meeting President Saddam Husayn, who had agreed to the meeting in the presence of the brother leader of the revolution. We had hoped that such a meeting would have prompted the UN Security Council to endorse a resolution against the use of force, thereby giving the mini-summit an opportunity to establish international peace. However, [word indistinct] King Fahd informed us of his refusal, which forced the brother leader of the revolution to cancel his news conference.

Therefore, Libya disavows the intransigent parties. It is no longer concerned about the Gulf problem from far or near, and it will leave the intransigent parties, whether Saudis, Kuwaitis, or Iraqis, to pay the price of their policies. Thank you.

JANA Denounces U.S. 'Interference' in Sudan

LD2811225590 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] It was announced in Khartoum today that brother 'Ali Sahlul, the foreign minister of Sudan, has summoned the U.S. ambassador to Sudan and made strong protest to him about the United States' interference in Sudan's internal affairs and about the false accusations against Sudan with regard to the internal conflict in Chad. SUNA said that the Sudanese foreign minister made a statement after summoning the U.S. ambassador, in which he said: The United States must respect Sudan's sovereignty on its land, and abstain from interfering in the internal affairs of the Sudanese people.

The JANA Arab affairs editor commented on the statements that were made on Sudan today by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, saying:

Instead of protesting against the Zionist air force's haphazard bombing of Lebanese towns and killing of innocent women and children, or against the daily massacres of Palestinian people, it resorts to poking its nose

into Sudan's internal affairs. The U.S. State Department issues at times statements in which it warns U.S. citizens against going to Sudan because of the unstable situation there. At other times it accuses Sudan of supporting Idriss Deby in the conflict taking place in Chad. The United States not only interferes here in Sudan's internal affairs, but impedes the exercise of its rights of sovereignty on its land and its adoption of what it sees fit for safeguarding its security.

Instead of putting an end to its hostile stands against the region, and its defiance of mankind, we see the United States today blaming Sudan because the latter has exercised its legitimacy within its borders. The United States should have protested against the actions committed against humanity; these acts are not alien to its own policies. The United States should also have protested against the actions hostile to the Arab nation, which the United States itself expresses, at every opportunity and in all circumstances, in its hostile stands and acts.

JANA's Arab affairs editor concluded his commentary in saying: The United States should stop such practices, and spare people its interference in their internal affairs—for this interference is not based on any logic, nor is it justified, except as something aimed at imposing the logic of force and expressing the tendencies of arrogance and aggression. The United States must protest, it should protest against itself before protesting against others, because its files are full of crimes and of the repression and oppression of peoples. The United States perhaps thinks that the sun shines on it, and sets on others; those others have a right to a place on the earth and under the sun, where they can live free and sovereign on their land. The United States, which stands at the opposite end of people's aspirations and ambitions, will always fail to understand this.

U.S. Claims of Libyan Aid to Chad's Deby Denied

LD2811220790 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs has stated that Libya is providing intensive support, with weapons and equipment, to Idriss Deby's forces and is practicing political destabilization against legitimate governments in Africa. The U.S. official added in his statement that the United States would stand with the N'Djamena regime and would support it in facing the plan of destabilization that confronts it. The U.S. official concluded his statement by saying that there is no direct Libyan intervention in Chad but that it supports Deby intensively with weapons and equipment. A spokesman for the People's Committee for the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau stated the following:

AFP reported statements by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs and spokesman for the U.S. State Department that contained fabricated accusations and allegations against Libya in an attempt to drag its name into the internal conflict taking place in Chad. While rejecting categorically these accusations, the People's Committee of the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau affirms the following:

First, these statements come within the framework of the renewal of the campaign which is carried out now and then by U.S. officials against Libya. This campaign stems from premeditated hostile intentions and aims.

Second, nobody believes that the officials in the U.S. Administration are, through these statements and poisonous campaigns, defending the security and stability of the people of Chad or any other people on earth. Otherwise why do they not budge against the Zionist enemy's shelling of the cities of Sur and Sidon in Lebanon and the killing of dozens of old men, children, and innocent citizens? We wonder here: Where are the principles of human rights that the U.S. Administration allegedly defends?

Third, as it has affirmed time and time again, the Great Jamahiriyah has no relation, in any way, with the tribal conflict inside Chad, and it does not support any side in it—and this (despite) its conviction that the continuation of this conflict harms the security and the stability of the region and its repeated calls for the achievement of national reconciliation in this neighboring African country.

Fourth, the initiatives that have been put forward by the Great Jamahiriyah, as well as its peaceful efforts to normalize relations with Chad, are the best proof of the soundness of its stance and the best reply to the U.S. Administration officials.

Al-Qadhdhafi Cables West African Leaders in Mali

LD2811095290 Tripoli JANA in English 0824 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al Harth [November] 28, JANA—Arab Maghreb Union's Pook—The leader of the revolution sent a cable to the heads of West African province [as received] currently meeting in the Republic of Mali to tackle the situation in Liberia expressing his appreciation for their sincere efforts to handle the situation in this African state within an African framework depending on African self potentials without foreign interference so that the slogan "Africa for Africans and no alliance for Africa except with itself" become a reality.

Mauritania

President Delivers National Day Address

LD2811024590 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Nov 90

[National Day address by President Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya on 27 November; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Citizens, tomorrow we shall immortalize the 30th anniversary of the declaration of our national independence. On this occasion, I would like to present my warm congratulations and best wishes of good health and happiness to every member of our nation. We will mark our National Day this year amid unstable and grave regional and international conditions. The world economic crisis is worsening daily and its negative repercussions are reflected in the security, social, and political situation in many countries of the world, and in developing countries.

More specifically, the international climate is increasingly tense. Wars and crises have broken out in many regions of the world. This crisis has contributed decisively to the collapse of the order regulating international relations ever since the end of the World War II. The world has suddenly entered a grave phase which we hope will soon end. The expected order may be more than the previous one.

In this context, we have the right, while we are marking this happy occasion, to take pride in the strides we have made to build a respected Mauritanian state, protecting it in a world characterized by selfishness, and which is dominated by the logic of intellectual terrorism and political blackmail. Despite all that, we must not become conceited about our accomplishments in this short period of time. Ours is a long and arduous battle for existence and survival, which requires more awareness of the dangers threatening us, and firm determination and real readiness to sacrifice for the sake of the homeland.

Dear citizens, on many occasions I have repeatedly talked about our social reality, the regional and international conditions around us, and the need to contemplate this reality and adapt our individual and collective behavior to the current conditions. I find myself in further need to renew and stress that call, particularly to Mauritanian youth in rural areas and in towns. Youth must get ready now for the responsibilities that await them in the future. They must bear their share of the common [word indistinct] with integrity and sincerity in this difficult phase of the history of our people and nation.

Dear citizens, the Military Committee for National Salvation has made a pledge, which it cannot retract, to provide a democratic climate to enable all citizens to contribute responsibly and conciously to the process of national construction. We are moving, with God's support and strength, in that direction, until we achieve that by implementing the plan we have laid for ourselves, distanced from the echoes of the current media uproar, and the dangers of adventurism, rashness and improvisation which inevitably lead to chaos, undermining of security and instability.

Correct democratic policy will teach the citizen a host of basic concepts and prepare him well for bearing his responsibilities and duties, before involving him in a battle that requires a minimum level of awareness, responsibility, wisdom and discipline. In line with this perception, which responds to our people's reality and interests, the national leadership has from the beginning emphasised combating illiteracy, organizing awareness campaigns for male and female citizens, and opening the door wide for participation by everyone in the national effort through the municipal councils experiment, which are being renewed in an atmosphere of complete freedom and the state's respect for the voter's will.

In this context, and to consolidate the decisions taken so far, the establishment of an economic and social council will be announced before the end of this year. In this way, we shall be able, God willing, to remove gradually the obstacles which hinder our democratic march. We will secure the effective participation of our people in the running of their affairs. We ask God to help us succeed and guide us to a wise path. Peace and God's mercy and blessing be upon you.

Morocco

King Receives Senegalese Armed Forces Minister

LD2711150290 Rabat MAP in English 1347 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 27 (MAP)—King Hassan II received here Monday Senegalese Minister of Armed Forces Medoune Fall who conveyed to him a message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf pertaining to bilateral relations.

The Senegalese official also told the sovereign that during the recent visit president Diouf paid to Saudi Arabia, the officers, non-commissioned officers and troops of the Moroccan contingent deployed in the region voiced their feelings of loyalism and attachment to King Hassan II.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali, advisers to the sovereign Ahmed Reda Guedira, Ahmed Bensouda and Mohamed Aouad and Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri attended the audience.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Comments on Peace, Military Options

EA2811211290 Khartoum SUNA in English 0929 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 28 November (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), minister of defence and the general commander of the people's Armed Forces, General 'Umar al-Bashir, has affirmed that the revolution will continue its process towards realizing peace in the country, adding that the Armed Forces, the popular defence forces, the police, and the other regular forces would be the guard of the peace option.

Addressing the Sudanese nation through radio and TV yesterday, on the occasion of the Martyr Day, Gen.

al-Bashir said that there are only two options to solve the southern Sudan question: either to realize peace, that is satisfy all the concerned sides, or to prepare for destroying the rebellion movement and break the thorn of the rebellion and the fifth column wherever they are. He said the joining of some of the dissolved parties' elements to the outlaws came in the framework of these elements searching for their self-interests.

Gen. al-Bashir further greeted the Armed Forces and the martyrs. It is to be recalled that all the Sudanese military units organise festivals on the occasion of the Martyr's Day anniversary, which comes on 28 November.

Al-Bashir Receives Saddam Message on Gulf Events

EA2811212090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, has received a verbal message from Saddam Husayn; the Iraqi president, concerning the [words indistinct] the events in the Gulf region and Arab solidarity to confront the trends calling for the UN Security Council to issue a resolution to launch a military (?aggression against) Iraq.

This emerged today when Lt. Gen. al-Bashir (?met with) the Iraqi charge d'affaires, who (?conveyed to him) the message from the Iraqi president. The meeting also discussed the distinguished and fraternal relations between Sudan and Iraq.

Unionist Leader Says Rail Strike Sparked Unrest

PM2811101690 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 23 Nov 90 p 1

[Sa'idah Ramadan report: "Sudanese Unionist Party Declares Start of Peope's Rising in Sudan"]

[Text] Al-Sharif Zayn-al-'Abidin al-Hindi, secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Party and former Sudanese deputy prime minister, has said that the railroad workers' strike in the Sudanese city of 'Atbarah has turned into a people's rising. Zayn-al-'Abidin al-Hindi said that the rising has resulted in eight people being killed and hundreds wounded, and the detention without an interview of large numbers of workers. Al-Hindi urged Amnesty International to condemn the actions of the military government in Sudan which instigated Islamic Front militias to open fire on demonstrators.

Railroad workers staged a strike 10 days ago in protest against the dismissal of 12,000 workers out of a total of 50,000. The military government has imposed a curfew in the city and closed schools.

Kuwait

Resistance Claims 'Scores' of Iraqi Casualties

PM2911110690 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic
27 Nov 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Resistance Attacks Al-Sulaybikhat Cinema, 'Hunts' Group of Occupation Officers and Troops"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti citizens who left Kuwait recently have spoken about further operations carried out by the Kuwaiti national resistance against the Iraqi occupation, despite the continuation of practices whereby the occupation troops try to control the Kuwaiti people. A citizen who left [Kuwait] last Wednesday [21 November] said that 'Ali Hasan 'Abd-al-Majid, whom Saddam Husayn appointed governor of Kuwait a few days after the 2 August invasion, was shot in the shoulder in an assassination attempt during his stay at Kuwait's International Hotel a few weeks ago.

He said that it was 'Ali Hasan's serious wounding that prompted Saddam to replace him with someone else two weeks ago. The Kuwaiti citizen added that last Saturday [24 November] Kuwaiti resistance members carried out a bombing operation at a restaurant in the al-Sulaybikhat Cinema building, which he said was one of the main meeting places for Iraqi officers and soldiers because of its reputation for the Iraqi dishes served there.

The citizen said that he was not sure of the scale of the losses inflicted on the Iraqi forces as a result of that explosion, but said that "reliable sources told me that scores of officers and soldiers were killed or wounded."

Another citizen said that the Iraqi occupation troops are still raping Asian women, adding that Iraqi officers ordered a number of these women to assemble daily at a certain school and then ordered their soldiers to select the one that they wanted to rape and to take her to their concentration point. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Outlines Training Progress

PM2911103190 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic
26 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by 'Azizi al-Dihani: "Defense Minister Tells AL-ANBA': Training Program for Ministers Started; Heir Apparent Heads Trainees"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] Al-Ta'if—Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad has announced that a third group of the Kuwaiti volunteers seeking to acquire the honor of liberating the dear homeland will graduate within the next weeks as it completes its weapons training in the United Arab Emirates.

The minister told AL-ANBA' in an exclusive statement: On orders from his highness the amir and his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, the Defense Ministry is carrying out a vital program to prepare Kuwaiti youths and men to participate in that sacred duty.

Speaking before the ceremonies to be held today in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia to mark the graduation of the second group of volunteers, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad described President Bush's visit to the region as a final warning to the tyrant of Baghdad. He said that Bush's tour, during which he met with a number of Arab leaders including His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, was complementary to the international move to divert the Iraqi regime from its error and persuade it to avert the destruction which could befall Iraq if it does not withdraw from Kuwait, restore its legitimacy, and repatriate its people.

The defense minister broached the subject of our young men's response to the training program and participation in the battle. He said that the young Kuwaitis are enthusiastic about taking part in liberating their country. Everywhere we sense our sons' enthusiasm for joining the training camps. But our circumstances do not allow us to absorb those huge numbers of young men because there are not enough camps or arms. We graduated a new group of 283 Kuwaiti youths in the United Arab Emirates and will tofay graduate 600 volunteers in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. Soon, 600 volunteers will graduate in the United Arab Emirates. All this is proof of the enthusiasm and love of young Kuwaitis for their political leadership and dear territory.

He added: Young Kuwaitis have made sacrifices and will continue to make sacrifices for the sake of liberating their country. They want to do anything to liberate their homeland.

The defense minister pointed out that many of the arms to be supplied under deals concluded before 2 August have been delivered to our forces alongside the joint forces, especially tanks and mechanized units. And we do not concentrate on a particular weapon, of course, but always pursue a policy of diversification, especially regarding what suits us and suits our topography.

The defense minister revealed the ministry's completion of the phases of preparing the Martyr Brigade, saying that it has taken up its positions alongside the joint forces. And the Liberation Brigade is in the process of being completed. And there are a number of brigades which will take the same road after they have been prepared. And we have conducted maneuvers with live ammunition in cooperation with the joint forces.

On the process of training ministers militarily, he said that a training program had started two weeks ago with a view to training ministers in the use of arms. And that task is being assumed by qualified instructors from the Kuwaiti Armed Forces. His highness the heir apparent and prime minister heads them, because the idea is his. He has always urged them to take part in that step.

On the number of martyrs and captured soldiers, the defense minister said that we do not have accurate statistics, but we are certain that the number of Army soldiers missing is only 573.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Agreement To Meet With Saddam Denied

LD2911111290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1019 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 29 Nov (SPA)—In response to news media reports published yesterday quoting a statement by the Libyan information minister to journalists, that the Libyan president [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdahfi, had tried to organize a summit between the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-Aziz, and the Iraqi president this week, that the two sides initially agreed to hold such summit but, Saudi Arabia changed its mind at the last minute, an authoritative source made the following statement to SPA today:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia never agreed to such a meeting initially or changed its mind later on, as the statement alleged.

The source added: What actually happened is that the Libyan envoy, Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm, who came to Saudi Arabia two days ago, submitted to the custodian of the two holy mosques the proposal of the Libyan president, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, that included the idea of holding a tripartite meeting which would bring together King Fahd Bin Abd-al-Aziz, president Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and the Iraqi president.

The reply of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the Libyan envoy was clear and frank. It stated that such a meeting is totally irrelevant as far as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is concerned, because it has already indicated on several occasions its firm stance toward the Iraqi aggression against the sisterly state of Kuwait. This stance is as follows: The need for an unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi Forces from Kuwait, the return of the Kuwaiti legitimacy to power under the leadership of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia does not see any alternative to these firm stances because of its commitment to the resolutions of the Cairo Arab summit, Islamic organizations, and the resolutions of the UN Security Council that have been unanimously accepted by the whole world.

King Fahd Sends Message to Mitterrand

LD2911114790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud, has sent a message to French President Francois Mitterrand.

The message was conveyed by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal during his meeting with the French President yesterday evening.

The foreign minister said, in a statement after the audience and reported by French radio, that the message basically concerns the continuing exchange of viewpoints on the crisis created by Iraq's invasion of the State of Kuwait.

According to French radio, a French source said after the audience that President Mitterrand reaffirmed that France will vote for the [draft Security Council] resolution.

Yemen

Paper Says U.S. Aims at 'Entrenching' Foothold

EA2911102590 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1805 GMT 27 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] At the top of page three, 14 UKTUBAR highlights an issue under the headline: The Policy of Robbery and Containment of International Legitimacy. The paper says: The U.S. Administration these days is trying to race against time to contain international legitimacy anew while painting its military movements toward the Arab Gulf and the peninsula in many colors. Meanwhile, it is taking great pains to demonstrate to world public opinion that it is doing nothing but implementing the will of the international community.

The U.S. Administration—as many of its officials have stated—is entitled to take the initiative to strike Iraq without referring to the U.N. Security Council or the United Nations in general. The administration alleges that Article 51 of the U.N. Charter permits it to do so legally and lawfully. This article, however, only authorizes a state to defend itself if it is exposed to danger from war or a direct threat. It does not authorize the declaration of war on another state out of fear it intends to wage war against Saudi Arabia. The paper went on to say: In spite of that, the U.S. Administration with all its weight and resources is now in the process of advancing a policy which in reality, aims at entrenching its foothold in the Arab Gulf region. What it is now seeking to achieve by means of the U.N. Security Council meeting due to be held the day after tomorrow, 29 November, to debate the issue of a new Council resolution authorizing the application of any means needed to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, is to seize a resolution empowering it to strike a military blow against Iraq. This is particularly so inasmuch as the special meeting of the Security Council is being convened at the request of the United States, which is currently chairing the Council.

This haste is being manifested following the shuttle tour by James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, of a number of relevant states in order to gain their support for U.S. military policy against Iraq—as if the Yemeni Republic

had specifically adopted a clear and declared stance in the sight of all of rejecting the military option as a means of solving the Gulf crisis. [sentence as heard] At the international level, the importance of this principled stance increases with the approach of our country's assumption of the chairmanship of the U.N. Security Council in December. This has prompted the haste with which the U.S. Administration, while it still chairs the Council, is seeking to wrest a resolution from the Council before our country assumes the chairmanship.

Political observers link the United States' concern for the UN Security Council, specifically in relation to the Gulf crisis, with the steps it took on the other side of the Council and indeed towards the United Nations as a whole. This is because the U.S. Administration has on several occasions pursued a policy of financial robbery toward the United Nations by refusing to submit to the international community's wishes in matters (?beyond) the scope of the latter's interests. In this respect it is known that Washington's dues to the UN budget alone constitute 25 percent of the total budget. In spite of that, however, the United States renders itself as the biggest (?obstacle) by lagging behind in paying its dues. Recently, Washington was concerned about paying only part of its arrears. This concern arose only when it coincided with Washington's wish to dictate to this international organization, specifically with a view to persuading the latter to implement its wishes and policy. In spite of all that, will Washington succeed in implementing its robbery and dragging the international community to the edge of an abyss?

70 Italians Depart Baghdad for Rome 28 Nov

JN2811165190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1636 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—In implementation of orders issued by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, 70 Italian nationals left Baghdad for Rome today on board of a special Iraqi plane along with Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, the exiled archbishop of Jerusalem.

In statements to INA, the departing guests of Iraq expressed their thanks and appreciation for the good treatment and hospitality accorded to them by the Iraqi Government and people during their stay in Iraq. They said that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's decision to allow them to leave Iraq or stay if they so wished is a humanitarian initiative that confirms Iraq's good faith regarding its desire to establish a durable and comprehensive peace in the region.

More Foreigners Reportedly Scheduled for Release

Ali to Escort Americans

JN2711210790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 27 Nov

["Text" of statement made by President Saddam Husayn during his meeting on 27 November in Baghdad with former American boxing champion Muhammad Ali and Jaber Elijah Muhammed.]

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—I am happy to meet brother Haj Muhammad Ali Clay and to meet with you. Let us begin where you left off and say that God Almighty does not discriminate among believers on the basis of color. God's criterion, as we know and trust, is based on their stands, their faith, and their behavior. The degrees of virtue are based on the extent of adherence to them. Whoever has more faith attains a higher degree. Life has taught us that the people who are remote from God are also remote from the people. Thus it is natural for them to discriminate among people when they are remote from the spirit of humanity which is supposed to govern relations between people.

This is not the only fault in the behavior and thinking of this type of people. But certainly their negative action and possibly—to be more precise—bad action, is among the major vices rejected by God Almighty. By this I mean when they discriminate among people on the basis of color. We are always guided by our true Islamic religion and our ancient and noble heritage which is rich with the great meaning of humanity.

Thus you see that the U.S. Administration, instead of shouldering its humanitarian responsibility based on love and righteous action among all peoples on earth and on the good principles of religions, including the principles of Jesus Christ, is taking a hostile course against nations and peoples based only on the available brute force and the possibility of using it, forgetting that God the omnipotent is stronger than anybody and than all powers.

It is on the basis of these aberrant concepts they have come to occupy the Muslims' holy lands. Thus they have placed themselves in a tight corner that is contrary to the desires and stands of the billion Muslims in the world. I have nothing to contradict the principles that the brother speaker spoke about on behalf of Haj Muhammad Ali Clay, but will provide some clarification. When God Almighty created people, starting with Adam and Eve and after them, when He began to send messages and He entrusted the messengers and prophets, and when He later stopped sending divine messages and prophets and made Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be on him, the last of the prophets and messengers and His book the Koran the last of the messages, God Almighty thus showed the great weight He attached to man's efforts on earth.

Therefore, messengers and prophets undertook certain tasks that were not dictated by God. These messengers, however, were careful to ensure that their conduct was as close as possible to the spirit of the faith they brought to mankind.

In light of this, what was our purpose when we prevented the travel of some foreigners from a certain date and until 25 March? We believe, as you do, that whoever has God on his side cannot be defeated by brute force. However, we believe that the task of fighting the devil is not confined to the messengers and prophets, but can be carried out by people here on earth.

The task of fighting the devil can be assumed by any man who is sufficiently devout and who has enough awareness to repel the powers of evil. The reckless perpetration of evil is something that is inspired by the devil; therefore, whenever it is found that evil people are precipitating evil action because Satan tempts them to do so, believers should place obstacles in their way so as to impede such action.

This is why, when a decision was made to prevent a number of foreign residents from traveling, the objective was to introduce a new factor into the situation that could hinder any hasty action inspired by Satan. We are fully convinced that there are many people, whether inside or outside the United States, who, once they discovered that the sons would share a fate similar to that of the Iraqi people if they were attacked, began to pressure the governments that wanted to perpetrate evil, so as to compel them to rethink their actions.

If these governments then began to rethink their evil intentions, for reasons that have more to do with election returns than with humanitarian considerations, this means that the chance was given for some good to be done in terms of interfering with the war decision.

As we have said on more than one occasion, this decision was not purely our own choice. This means that we did

not choose it from among several options available to us. It was a decision imposed by necessity. This necessity on which the decisi... was based had a profound humanitarian significance because it aimed to prevent war, not to harm any human being. We do not know how much influence this decision has had on stopping the movement toward the evils of war, although the possibility of war apparently still exists in the mind of the U.S. Administration. Regardless of the effect it has had, it has in any case postponed the shedding of blood—when war breaks out—the shedding of both foreign and Iraqi blood, and perhaps Muslim blood in general. Hence, by this decision we achieved a major gain for humanity.

I am not saying this in order to convince those who are hardhearted in the Bush administration or others of like mind. Rather, I am saying it in order to explain the principles in which we believe and which are drawn from the spirit of the Islamic message and the spirit of our great Arab heritage. I know that those with hard hearts and evil minds are besieging Iraq by cutting off children's milk and medicines with their embargo. If you add food to this, you will discover that this might lead to the death of tens, hundreds, and perhaps thousands of people who have not taken up arms against anyone. For instance, President Bush speaks of an American who lost some weight. As a human being, I sympathize with someone who loses weight as a result of stress, whether he is an American, an African, an Indian, a Soviet, or anything else. This is why you find that—primarily by relying on God—the more time we have to consolidate our defenses in a way that will enable us to crush aggressors if they are tempted to attack our country, the more we will seek authorization from the National Assembly or decide by using our own prerogative to allow a large number of foreigners to return to their families and countries.

Therefore, our interaction with people continues, regardless of their nationality, color, age, or way of thinking. We have not asked anyone to support our stand before giving him freedom to travel. Nor have we asked a ransom or anything else in return for this. Under the supervision of our departments, we are providing them with care at a level equivalent to that given to any Iraqi for whom special care is required.

The only things which we, as a state, have refrained from giving them are those things banned by the Islamic faith. For example, some of them who were being hosted in places where there were no swimming pools asked that we move them to places where there are swimming pools. You know that there are not as many places with swimming pools in Iraq as there are in the United States. For example, some of them asked that we provide them with certain video films and VCR's. We provided them with this. The U.S. Embassy knows that not all Iraqi homes have VCR's. Is this not hospitality?

If President Bush would only remember the children of Palestine who are being killed daily and who are suffering daily at the hands of the Israeli occupation. If he would only remember the hungry people in Africa and Asia. If he would only remember how many children and old people are dying as a result of the food and medicine blockade which he has imposed on Iraq. If he remembers all this, we will say that his talk about one American national who lost weight is indeed for humanitarian purposes, and hence we will respect and appreciate such talk. However, when he does not remember all these grotesque situations and scandals, then it is our right to say that he is bluffing the American public for propaganda and election purposes and is not speaking for humanitarian purposes.

As you know and as the whole world knows, our land—and I mean the Arab homeland—is the birthplace of prophets and messengers. It is the cradle of all prophets and messengers, the center of all heavenly missions which have descended on the prophets and messengers, and the fundamental base of faith throughout the world. These facts make it difficult for the people here to be fooled easily. If bluffing and trickery could fool them, then the evil ones who fought the faith and resisted the message of Islam as the last message to mankind would have been able to change the thinking of the people here from one of faith to one of blasphemy and atheism. Because they could not, this means that this people does not accept bluffing and is capable of differentiating between humbug and piety.

Therefore, and in accordance with all these principles, we will not let Haj Muhammad Ali return without taking with him a number of Americans, who will enjoy the freedom to travel.

Welcome, Haj Muhammad Ali. I am happy to have met with you.

Belgians To Leave

JN2811143490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn this morning met with Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; and Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; in the presence of Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

During the meeting, they reviewed the latest regional developments. The conferees also took cognizance of the oral message German Foreign Minister Genscher relayed to Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz through the German ambassador in Baghdad.

The German foreign minister's message affirmed support for political dialogue as a means to achieve a peaceful solution. Likewise, it asserted Germany's view that the attainment of solutions to other regional problems, such as the Palestine question and the Lebanese issue, has become an urgent necessity.

The conferees expressed appreciation for this positive and understanding stance.

His Excellency the president decided that the National Assembly will discuss allowing Belgian nationals to leave Iraq against the background of the statements and position of the Belgian Government and the Belgian parliamentary and party delegations currently visiting Iraq.

Swedish Permitted to Depart

JN2911120190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] In implementation of Leader President Saddam Husayn's orders, and at the recommendation of the National Assembly, it has been decided to allow the Swedish nationals to leave or stay in Iraq as they wish.

During a session it held on Monday [26 November] morning, the National Assembly approved by a majority vote to allow the remaining Swedish guests of Iraq to leave or stay in Iraq as they wish.

Ramadan Urges Bush To Start Dialogue

JN2811132290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and first deputy prime minister, has affirmed that U.S. President Bush, who is leading the world to a destructive and all-out war, has no choice but to respond favorably to the logic of sensible and balanced reasoning and common sense to help attain peace through dialogue.

In a speech inaugurating the fifth Arab Youth Solidarity Seminar, Ramadan stressed the need to start a dialogue to spare the region the tragedies of war and achieve a comprehensive, durable, and complete peace to all regional problems, foremost among which are the problems concerning the usurped rights of the Palestinian people and the departure of Americans and Zionists from the occupied Arab territories in Palestine, Lebanon, Golan, and Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Taha Yasin Ramadan added that Iraq is confident that it will achieve victory in the confrontation, because there are numerous facts and pieces of evidence supporting this argument, foremost among which is that its combat depth lies with the Arab and Islamic nation's masses as well as all well-intentioned parties all over the world. Besides, Iraq possesses numerous sophisticated weapons and war-tested combatants who have emerged victorious and stronger, Ramadan added.

Ramadan expressed Iraq's rejection of all forms of custodianship and hegemony regardless of how numerous the forces of evil and hatred are. He indicated that the principles governing Iraq's political perspective and its daily and strategic conduct are the principles of righteousness, justice, genuine peace, and equitable and honest cooperation.

Addressing the seminar, Ramadan said: Your meeting in victorious, peaceful Baghdad in such great numbers is an affirmation of the solidarity among all Arab youths who have taken a strong, united stand against the American-Zionist alliance and its agents among the traitors to the Arab nation who sold their conscience and betrayed Arab values, and became tools in the hands of the rapacious colonialists who are bent on implementing their plans to control Arab resources, confiscate Arab rights and will, and perpetuate occupation, domination, and blackmail.

He said genuine Arab youths are aware of its pan-Arab duty to back the Arab struggle in confronting the camp of infidelity and aggression and liquidating the evildoers who try to destroy the Arabs by putting them in the dark tunnel of tyranny, slavery, poverty, and backwardness, an aim that is clear from the size of the American and NATO fleets and other military forces in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Ramadan strongly deplored the plots and obscurantist methods the U.S. Administration is pursuing at the UN Security Council and the unjust, illegal resolutions to impose a blockade on Iraq, the escalation of the language of war and aggression, and the rejection of a comprehensive and just peace as proposed in President Saddam Husayn's initiative on 12 August 1990.

Ramadan declared that the stage the Arab nation is passing through is a golden opportunity for Arabs to cleanse themselves of the filth brought in by the rulers of Najd and Hejaz and the agent Husni who undermined Arab and foreign values in order to weaken the Arab nation and enable its greedy enemies to penetrate it, exploit its wealth, control its future, and prevent it from becoming great among nations with global influence in the trend toward peace and cooperation among peoples.

Ramadan added: The reasons behind the intensification of the conspiracy against the Arab nation, foremost among which is the conspiracy and aggression against Iraq, are the scientific, military, and civilian renaissance under way in Iraq and the pride all honorable Arabs take in this renaissance, since they view it as an asset belonging to all of them. One more reason for this is Iraq's policy under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, which seeks to liberate the Arab will from subservience to the United States and its allies and also to redistribute Arab wealth so that every Arab may have a share in this wealth after being kept in the hands of individuals and families who spent it unwisely in corruption and lust and who spread all forms of poverty, backwardness, and hunger from which millions of Arabs are suffering because their wealth was held in Zionist, American, Western, and Japanese banks by the agents, the rulers of Najd and Hejaz and the conspiring al-Sabah family.

Ramadan went on to say that Iraq, with the willpower of its heroic sons and the well-meaning among Arabs and Muslims, and the generous outpouring of support

expressed by the Arab masses in all arenas and streets of our greater Arab homeland, ready to defend the Arabs' dignity, rights, and future, is honored to be leading this faithful and mujahid gathering to fight infidelity and agentry. While doing so, Iraq seeks the assistance of God the Almighty to help expel the occupier aggressors and liberate the holy Arab lands, the lands of prophets and messengers, from all agents, traitors, and their masters and allies so that the Arab nation can become the best of nations as it was in the past.

Ramadan said: Your gathering at this splendid pan-Arab event is a declaration to the whole world that the Arabs are now standing on the threshold of a new phase of might and liberation, and that Arab Palestine, as well as all the occupied Arab territories, will return to their rightful owners through holy jihad and honorable martyrdom, and not through the broken promises made by those who allegedly uphold international legitimacy nor through the pursuit of a policy of compliance, defeatism, and false slogans for the liberation of Jerusalem—a policy pursued by the agents and the cowardly among Arab rulers.

Ramadan lauded the revolution staged by the stone-throwers in occupied Palestine, a revolution that is daily stepped up. He also paid tribute to the defiance being demonstrated by the Palestinian young in the face of all means of oppression, torture, brutal crimes, and mass killings being perpetrated by the Zionist occupiers. He added: This is the beginning of the real liberation of both Arab lands and Arab will. The Arab nation's youth who rose up against the American-Atlantic presence in the lands of Najd and Hejaz in every city and village in the Arab homeland and who displayed great support for the intifadah being staged by their kinfolk in the occupied territories will continue the struggle until the attainment of the Arabs' objectives of securing the withdrawal of the enemy occupiers from all Arab lands, and liberating the Arabs from all agent and cowardly rulers. They will continue this struggle so that the Arab lands may remain for the Arabs and so that the Arabs can continue to lead a decent, dignified, and free life. This is also necessary for the Arabs if they are to continue their scientific and technological advancement whose foundations were laid down by your great Iraq under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

The seminar inaugurated by Taha Yasin Ramadan on behalf of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, in which 40 Arab youth organizations as well as a number of international student and youth organizations are participating, will discuss ways to enhance and support the efforts of the Arab young to defend the Arab nation's honor and dignity against the U.S.-Zionist aggression which seeks to plunder Arab wealth and defile the Muslims' sanctities.

U.S. Intercepts Al-'Aqabah-Bound Ship

JN2811154490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1511 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga, accompanied by five U.S. warships, at 0605 [0305 GMT] on the morning of Tuesday 27 November, surrounded the Iraqi ship Khawlah Bint-al-Azwar which was empty of cargo and only had a crew on board. The Saratoga, attacked the ship, sailing in the Red Sea, with artillery shells. The shells fell five meters from the ship's bow.

When the crewmen refused to halt as ordered, six helicopter gunships landed on the ship's deck. The soldiers on board the helicopters inspected the ship and left it at 0720 [0420 GMT] on the same day.

Four U.S. and Spanish warships made earlier attempts on the same day to halt the Khawlah Bint-al-Azwar when it set sail from Aden to Port Sudan en route to the port of al-'Aqabah.

Rumors of Saddam Visit to Saudi Arabia Cited

LD2711133190 Rabat MAP in English 1252 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 27 (MAP)—President Saddam Husayn might visit Saudi Arabia next January to perform 'Al Oumra' (minor pilgrimage), Moroccan daily 'AL ALAM' reported in a special correspondence from Baghdad.

The daily which quotes persistent rumors circulated by diplomatic milieux in Baghdad wondered whether President Husayn is not planning to meet King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Kuwaiti ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The daily also wondered if this meeting will provide an opportunity to prepare for a larger summit that would gather between the mentioned Arab leaders, king Husayn of Jordan and Egyptian and Syrian presidents Husbi Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad.

'Is this idea part of the proposal made by King Hassan II to convene a regional summit as a prelude to a larger Arab summit to reach a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis?', the daily wondered.

King Husayn Reportedly Unable To Meet Saddam

NC2911091290 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 26 Nov 90 p 1

[AL-SAFIR report: "A Dialogue Via Television"]

[Text] AL-SAFIR has learned from Arab diplomatic sources that during his recent visit to Baghdad, King Husayn of Jordan was unable to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn who told the King upon his arrival in the Iraqi capital that the Americans had been watching him since he left Amman and that the Americans could attack their meeting place.

The sources said that instead of a face-to-face meeting, a television dialogue was held between Saddam and King Husayn, who then returned to Amman without seeing the Iraqi president.

Food, Medicine Shortages Result in 'Tragic Cases'

JN2811215790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2052 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] London, 28 Nov (INA)—The Iraqi Press Bureau in London has said that while nations are celebrating Christmas and looking forward to a new year, and while [word indistinct] in these states are expressing their sincere wishes on these holidays and looking forward to peace and happiness, millions of Iraqis are being surrounded by the machinery of war and destruction and are being threatened by disease and famine. The bureau added that there are thousands of Iraqi children who do not have enough milk to keep them alive.

In a press statement distributed here today, the Press Bureau asked: How can mankind and peace-loving and prosperity-loving nations accept such an ugly, tragic possibility? If this takes place, history [words indistinct] that the Americans and the Westerners led by their governments have contributed to the death of millions of innocents, the statement added.

The statement said: Iraqi children and old people are facing death because of a shortage of milk, food, and medicines caused by the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people by the United States and its allies.

The statement of the Iraqi Press Bureau in London said that [words indistinct] hospitals in Iraq are currently witnessing tragic cases in which many have died because of the shortage of medicine. The statement asked: Have officials in the U.S. Government seriously thought of those who would perish when they (?implemented) the economic embargo resolution against Iraq? The bureau [words indistinct] the bases of dealing with civilians in time of war. It said that laws and charters governing war provide for the safety of civilians even during hostilities. Prisoners of war are also protected by the existing charters, which say their human right to food, medicine, and clothes must be safeguarded. The statement asked: Is it right then [words indistinct] to deprive the Iraqi people of these basic rights?

The statement indicated that the UN Security Council's economic embargo resolution excludes food, (?medicine), and other humanitarian requirements. The statement asked why the United States and its allies do not abide by this exclusion, or is the United States determined to make the Iraqi people come to their knees through starvation?

The Iraqi Press Bureau statement also emphasized the Iraqi people's desire to establish peace and develop their country the way they had done thousands of years ago. The statement added that the Iraqis are not seeking peace for themselves only, but for humanity at large, especially the Palestinian Arab people who are in dire need of peace and stability.

The statement pointed out that U.S. policy, which has imposed an economic blockade on Iraq, was active prior to 2 August. It said that America had planned to impose economic sanctions on Iraq before the current crisis in the Gulf broke out because America would not allow Iraq to have the right or power to pursue its independent approach and self-determination which enables it not to be subservient to the desires of America or any other party.

Intelligence Said To Arrest 4,500 Citizens

PM2811153590 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic 26 Nov 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "It's 4,500 Detainees, That's All"]

[Text] London, AL-ZAHIRAH—AL-ZAHIRAH has learned that the Iraqi authorities last week arrested over 4,500 Iraqi citizens in a large-scale wave of arrests organized by Iraqi intelligence organs and conducted randomly.

The security organs directly under Iraqi President Saddam Husayn charged the detainees with distributing leaflets hostile to the ruling regime in Baghdad. Sources in the Iraqi capital pointed out that the recent wave of arrests coincided with the increasing severity of the people's indignation at the regime's continuing excesses at the local and foreign levels.

A statement issued by the Supreme Council of the Islamic Movement in Iraq has expressed "utmost concern that these detainees may be executed after being subjected to the most brutal torture."

The statement urged all international organizations to take the necessary measures to protect the detainees against the miserable fate waiting them at the hands of Saddam and his followers.

Mosad To Question Egyptian Soldier in Cairo

JN2711142090 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 27, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad has unmasked that the Zionist entity joins Husni regime in investigating the Egyptian soldier who carried out the commando operation against the Zionist buses along borders with Egypt.

The paper correspondent in Nicosia quoted Arab sources as saying that a Mosad official had arrived in Cairo yesterday morning to take part in the investigation.

Meanwhile, the enemy radio monitored here today mentioned that a joint Egyptian-Israeli security coordination

committee was set up to follow up details of the commando operation which resulted in killing four Zionists and injuring 24 others.

It is to be recalled that Israel participated in questioning late martyr Sulayman Khatir who had carried out a commando operation and then found killed in his prison cell under mysterious circumstances.

Saddam Receives Medicine From UK Labor Party

JN2811174990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn received a token quantity of medicine from Tony Benn, deputy leader of the British opposition Labor Party, during the president's meeting with the latter today.

The gift reflects the party's as well as the British masses' solidarity and sympathies with the Iraqi people, who are suffering from the results of the blockade enforced against Iraq by the United States and its allies and through which Iraqi children are denied access to food and medicine.

UK Labor Party Member Meets With Hammadi

JN2811130090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, today met with Tony Benn, British leftwing Labor Party parliament member, and his delegation.

Sa'dun Hammadi stressed that Iraq and its leader President Saddam Husayn are eager to establish peace and seize every opportunity that keeps away the specter of war. He added that the world voices calling for peace began to increase and unite after realizing the real aggressive aims the United States is seeking to realize in order to secure its own interests through the military and economic measures it adopted against Iraq—measures it depicted to the international community as Security Council resolutions.

He added: If the United States and its allies embark on war against Iraq, we will fight until victory in defense of right, dignity, and principles, and will not yield to any pressure

Tony Benn highly valued the positions adopted by Iraq and its leader President Saddam Husayn toward solving regional problems on the basis of direct and constructive dialogue away from foreign interventions. He called on the United Nations to play its role in seeking peaceful solutions to regional problems within an Arab context and to act correctly according to the humanitarian principles on which it was established for the sake of achieving a world balance through dialogue and peaceful negotiation. He pointed out that dialogue opens the road for the world public opinion to know facts away from the hostile Western deceptive media campaigns against Iraq.

Confers With Saddam

JN2811151390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn today received British opposition Labor parliamentarian Tony Benn.

His excellency the president held a candid, comprehensive, and thorough conversation with Benn on aspects of peace and stability in the region. His excellency the president explained Iraq's firm and clear policy on the current crisis and the available and proposed options for peace and regional stability on the basis of uniform standards, avoiding double standards and selective approaches in dealing with international legitimacy and UN resolutions, foremost among which are the UN resolutions concerning the Palestine question. He affirmed Iraq's belief that no peace nor security can be attained in the region unless the Palestine question, which has remained unresolved for more than 40 years, is properly dealt with.

As for Benn, he said he supported a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. Likewise, he rejected war, which would serve the interests of no one in the region or in the world.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

Ramadan Praises Jordan's Position on Gulf Crisis

JN2711202390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1643 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, has said that confidence in victory increases whenever the U.S. Administration and its allies become more hysterical, lose balance, and feverishly seek to trigger a war.

During a meeting with a popular delegation from the Jordanian community in Iraq today, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the arrival of additional U.S. troops in the Arab holy land and Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] confirms the superiority of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

He added that the thousands of American mercenaries with whom Bush is threatening us are countered by millions of experienced fighters.

The first deputy prime minister said that the Arab masses throughout the Arab homeland and abroad will take part in this battle to strike at U.S. and other interests. Therefore, he said that in the coming crucial

Arab battle, the Arab masses will change cowardly regimes and rulers in their countries.

The deputy prime minister praised fraternal Jordan's genuine pan-Arab stand and its adherence to Arab rights throughout the Arab homeland, adding that this position reflects the sincerity of the honorable Arabs.

The popular delegation of the Jordanian community in Iraq declared that they are volunteering to stand in the same trench with their brother Iraqi fighters led by President Saddam Husayn, who is defying all forces of aggression and evil and who has restored to the Arabs their glories, dignity, and the status they deserve.

They added that the Arab masses who have declared their support for Iraq and continue to volunteer to defend legitimate Arab rights will prove to the entire world and to all defeatist, cowardly, and capitulationist Arab rulers that the Arab masses will avenge their rights and dignity, which have been distorted and looted by America's slaves and servants. They said that a splendid, honorable history will be written for the Arabs under President Saddam Husayn.

Official Confers With Iranian Counterpart

JN2811172290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—Barazan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, permanent Iraqi representative at the UN'S Geneva Headquarters, met here today with his Iranian counterpart, Sirus Naseri.

During the round of talks, which lasted more than four hours, they reviewed the topics and issues discussed at the first and second sessions the day before yesterday. They also reviewed the progress made by the Iraqi-Iranian technical committees which are continuing their work within the framework of the two countries' desire to bolster and enhance bilateral ties and to develop them in the interest of the two peoples and neighborly countries.

Former Nicaraguan President Ortega Arrives

JN2811171390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

Ortega was welcomed at the airport by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim and Foreign Ministry officials.

Belgian Parliamentary Delegation Meets With Jasim

JN2811123290 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 28, INA—Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information stressed that dialogue and negotiation were the sound path for reaching a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement to issues of the region. Mr. Jasim stressed that this settlement must be in the light of President Saddam Husayn initiative of August 12 which called to resolve problems of the region on equal standard.

Speaking at a meeting with a visiting Belgian parliamentary delegation, Mr. Jasim, also member of the Regional Leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist party and official in charge of the External Relations Bureau added that respect of human rights does not dictate resorting to starving people and depriving them from food and medicine in contradiction to human rights principles.

Mr. Jasim added that resolving all problems in the region, in their forefront Palestine issue and those of Lebanon and the Gulf would provide an opportunity to eliminate the nightmare of war and its destructive calamaties and reinstate comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

The minister added that the United States was after subjugating Iraq through imposing the unjust economic embargo and attempts to force the Security Council to issue a new decision on using military force against Iraq.

The Belgian delegation said that President Husayn initiative would contribute to boosting security and stability in the region and avoid war and added that dialogue and negotiation were the best means to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the problems of the region.

Capucci on Saddam's 'Genuine Desire' for Peace

JN2911060790 Baghdad INA in English 1549 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 28, INA—The exiled archbishop of al-Quds [Jerusalem] Hilarion Capucci, extolled President Saddam Husayn's leadership, national stances and intiatives for establishing peace in the region.

In an interview with the Baghdad ALIF BA' weekly magazine, Mr. Capucci said that President Husayn's initiative serves as a sound and basic solution to all problems in the region.

He said that President Husayn had expressed, through his initiatives and stances, a genuine desire for peace and avoiding bloodshed, despite the Zionist-American endeavours to escalate tension.

The exiled archbishop of al-Quds called on the foreign forces in Saudia to withdraw from the sacred Moslem lands and to adopt a project for serious dialogue, to solve problems in the region, by holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

On the Vatican's viewpoint towards the crisis, Archbishop Capucci said the Vatican rejects war and that the crisis could still be solved peacefully.

Italian Delegation Head Praises Initiative

JN2911060290 Baghdad INA in English 1535 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 28, INA—The Italian peace delegation, currently visiting Iraq, hailed the peace initiative of President Saddam Husayn on August 12 describing it as the practical solution to all pending issues of the Middle East.

In a statement to INA, head of the delegation Otello Sarzi [name as received] confirmed the importance of finding peaceful solutions for the Arab problems away from use of military force and pointed out that the United Nations should play an effective role in preventing the foreign intervention and leaving the Arabs to solve their problem by themselves particularly the Palestinian issue and the Gulf crisis.

The Italian dignitary expressed appreciation of the Italian people to the Iraqi peace-loving people and their heroic stances in facing the evil forces.

The delegation said the United Nations had issued several resolutions condemning Israel's unhuman acts against the Palestinian people but none of those resolutions were implemented and that the United Nations did not exercise any pressures or blockade against Israel.

Mr. Sarzi criticized his government's attitude of sending military forces to the Gulf region and allowing the U.S. forces to pass across the Italian lands.

He confirmed that many protest processions were staged in Italy calling the Italian Government to withdraw Italian forces from the Gulf region.

Australian Official Calls U.S., Bush 'Hypocrites'

JN2911060690 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 28, INA—Mrs. Janine Haines, member of the Australian Democratic Party and member of Parliament expressed her party's opposition to the Australian Government's decision to send naval vessels to the Arab Gulf region and described the Australian Government as weak.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper, Mrs. Haines said the U.S. Government was rash and hostile and sought control of the Gulf region. She also described the U.S. Administration and President Bush in particular as hypocrites.

The Australian M.P. said that U.S. presence in the region was not for preserving peace but to launch an aggression against Arab countries.

On President Saddam Husayn's initiative, allowing foreign nationals to leave Iraq in successive groups, the Australian M.P. said that the initiative had pleased all peoples of the world and proved Iraq's genuine desire for peace.

Mrs. Haines said that Third World peoples, particularly of the Middle East, had to confirm their independence and decide their destiny by themselves.

Saddam on Solidarity With Palestinians

JN2811214590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2104 GMT 28 Nov 90

["Text" of President Saddam Husayn's letter to the chairman of the UN Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on World Solidarity Day With the Palestinian People on 29 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Mr. Chairman of the UN Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People:

On the occasion of world solidarity today with the Palestinian people, it pleases me to express in my own name and on behalf of Iraq—people and government—our high appreciation for the various efforts your committee has made for the sake of the Palestine question to affirm the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. These efforts constitute important support for the people's struggle for peace and justice.

Our celebration on World Solidarity Day With the Palestinian People comes amid extremely delicate and serious circumstances. The brave popular Palestinian intifadah continues and is strongly escalating. This has made the world unanimously respect the intifadah and sympathize with it. The Palestinian intifadah asserts that it is a popular revolution that exceeds temporary reaction or transient objectives; it is a continuation of the revolutions of the Palestinian people which began with the Balfour Declaration to confront the British occupation and then the Zionist occupation.

This intifadah has illustrated the solid will of the Palestinian people with all its sectors, particularly the children of the stones, to achieve the sought after objectives of self-determination and the establishment of the state of Palestine on the soil of Palestine. While the intifadah of the heroic Palestinian people is escalating, the Zionist entity is continuing its exposed practices of killing, coercing, and deporting the Palestinian people, as well as depriving them of their political, cultural, and economic rights. The Zionist entity also continues to build settlements in the usurped Arab lands; it also continues its aggressive practices targetted against other Arab countries, violating all international laws and norms, including the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention. The recent massacre committed by this entity in al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem on 8 October 1990 is one of abundant evidence of the inhumane practices contrary to the UN members' commitment to respect human rights and people's right to self-determination.

We do not forget here the serious situation created by the arrival of hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants from the USSR and Eastern Europe in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territory. This immigration is part

of a scheme to establish the so-called Greater Israel and expel the whole Palestinian people from their land.

What has further escalated the seriousness of the situation is the support that the Zionist entity receives in the political, economic, and military fields—including the nuclear field—from countries that are supposed to shoulder major responsibilities vis- a-vis the issues of world peace and security. At the top of these countries is the United States. This makes the Zionist entity continue with its policies, unconcerned about their serious repercussions on regional security and stability. In addition to its protection of this entity through the use of the veto, the United States is pushing the Security Council to adopt double-standard criteria in dealing with the issues and problems in the region. At a time when the United States and its allies claim that they defend international legitimacy and prevent aggression and annexation of lands by force, it has since 1967 prevented the Security Council from adopting effective measures to deter the Zionist entity from its aggressive and expansionist policies against the people of Palestine, their lands, and the lands of other Arab countries.

Although the Security Council issued scores of resolutions on the Palestine question—some of them are more than 40 years old—and scores of others on Lebanon, neither the Security Council nor the United States and its allies have followed up on the implementation of these resolutions. They also failed to threaten to use the Chapter 7 sanctions against the Zionist entity, which has continued to violate or disregard these resolutions.

We have hoped and are still hoping that the United Nations and UN Security Council will take the opportunity afforded by our 12 August initiative and deal seriously with all the region's problems and establish unified regulations and arrangements to ensure their solution on the same bases and principles.

This means that all UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions demanding the Zionist entity's withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Arab Jerusalem, Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon would be implemented and that punitive economic and military measures contained in Chapter 7 of the Charter would be implemented against it were it to persist in refusing to withdraw. The fact that the UNSC has overlooked this initiative unveils the double standard that it practices with regard to regional events and issues. Likewise, this provides the Zionist entity with additional excuses to defy the international will, an example of which was given when it refused to receive the UN secretary general's mission to investigate the circumstances that led to the al-Haram al-Sharif massacre in implementation of UNSC Resolutions 673 and 672 of 1990.

Now that the intentions of the Zionist entity regarding the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories have been clearly demonstrated, the international community is called upon today more than ever to take a fair position toward the Palestinian people. Furthermore, the efforts of the United Nations in this regard should be similar to the efforts it made to enable the Namibian people to attain their independence and get rid of the colonial rule of the racist regime in South Africa.

Once again, we reaffirm Iraq's determination to fully support the struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, to realize their rights to existence, to self-determination on their national soil, and to live in security and peace. Our reading of the recent past and of the Palestinian people's determination to continue their intifadah tells us that success and victory will be the lot of these militant people who have been the victims of the ugliest tragedy in contemporary history.

Concluding, I would like to reiterate our high confidence in your efforts, hoping that your committee will continue to work in the interest of the Palestine question.

Please accept my best regards.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq

Paper Says No Peace Without Linking Palestine

JN2911110590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that Iraq and all free Arabs, honorable Muslims, and liberal people of the world, while calling for peace, are not lifting their fingers off the trigger in readiness for revolutionary confrontation of any aggressive attempt the evil-doers and hypocrites might carry out.

In its editorial today, the newspaper calls on the international community to take a close look at President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative which sets the peaceful bases for a just, permament, and comprehensive peace in the Arab region, if it is truly concerned about realizing international legitimacy, establishing peace, and putting an end to the burning hotbeds of tension in the world. It must also turn to the peace of the Arab nation, at the heart of which lies the peace of the Palestinian people.

The newspaper refers to the role the United States assigned to some entities in the region, foremost of which was the toppled al-Sabah government, which worked to harm Arab struggle to restore the Palestinian people's rights, destroy Arab resurgence, and oppose new Arab forces working to rectify the defects in the Arab state of affairs. In addition, these entities used Arab resources to feed evil acts opposed to Arab struggle and transferred them into a source of power for Zionism by investing these resources in the West and directly or indirectly employing them for the economic and weaponry benefit of the Zionist entity.

In conclusion, the paper says that the link between the Palestine question and the Gulf situation is an essential

and deep link. It is impossible to search for a way out of the two situations without starting with the Palestine question, which has been going on now for about a quarter of a century while being pushed from one international forum to another without any solution guaranteeing the rights of the Palestinian people or liberating their holy shrines.

Broadcast to U.S. Troops Says Bush 'Afraid'

JN2811175590 Baghdad Voice of Peace in English to Saudi Arabia 1230 GMT 28 Nov 90

["Message to the American Soldiers in the Arab Land of Saudia from Son of Mesopotamia"]

[Text] The increasing actions of the Bush administration and its continuous pressures on the member states in the Security Council to come up with a resolution that allows America and its allies to use force against Iraq is a clear proof to all the countries and peoples of the world and to all the international organizations that the Bush administration is only blocking the road against the peaceful initiative and efforts and is confiscating the political option chosen by the international public opinion in order for the military option preferred by the American administration to remain as the only method to be forced upon the world society for solving the Gulf crisis.

Like some Western and American sources openly declare now, that the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait is no more the target of the Bush administration or that the return of stability and peace to the Gulf area and the Arab nation is of no concern to it, but the one and only target for the Bush administration is to destroy the military, political, and economic potential ability of Iraq and to counterattack the rising national Arab rise as being a factor that might threaten the oil American and Western interests in general and might stop the colonialist investment operations of the area.

If the Bush administration has so far not started its aggression on Iraq and had not waged the bloodiest war ever in history, it does not mean that it wants to give peace or the political solution a chance or to the people of the areas some rest that they earnestly deserve but because that the [U.S.] Administration is frightful of a shameful defeat it might get in its fleet and other forces as well as the forces of its allies on the hands of the experienced Iraqi Army.

If the Bush administration were sure of the victory that can obtain for a war, they would not have hesitated one minute. It might have swept through Iraq the first day or perhaps the first hours of the crisis just like it did in Panama, Grenada, and elsewhere. If it were able to overcome the forces in Kuwait and Iraq it would not have waited so long for the international resolutions and it would not have begged the support of world forces, even from the smallest countries, unless they were really afraid they might get absolutely eliminated by the Iraqis. It is only decent to admit that Bush managed to get some support from various countries and the Jews in the world after his historic tour in a number of his allies' countries, but that is not all. The fact is that Bush is still horrified from the power of Iraq and from the harm Iraq could cause his army, his interests, and himself personally. He is only afraid that after such fatal conflict what remains of his country is a second-degree state without any glory or international power and that is what is stopping him from going into war.

See you pals. Yours, son of Mesopotamia.

AL-THAWRAH Denounces Baker, Bush Tours

JN2811131290 Baghdad INA in Arabi 0830 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has denounced U.S. Secretary of State Baker's tour and his president's visits to some European capitals and his meeting with troops in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

In an article today, the paper says: All these feverish American activities are aimed at giving the American decision to launch war against Iraq and the Arab nation an alleged cover of international legitimacy.

It adds: The war resolution that the Bush administration is trying to obtain, is not an easy resolution, particularly at this stage in mankind's history when the world peoples are looking forward to living in peace and stability away from wars, from which they will only reap destruction and human and material losses.

The paper notes that the peaceful demonstrations that are staged daily by thousands of citizens in all world capitals, particularly in the American cities, prove their rejection and denunciation of the American policy toward the Gulf crisis, and their call for the immediate withdrawal of the American forces of invasion from Arab land. The paper stresses that it is the peoples' will that eventually will prevail and that history will curse all the advocates of war and destruction.

Paper Attacks U.S. 'Conspiracy' Against Nation

JN2811111590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH describes the resolutions imposed by the United States and issued in the name of the Security Council as brutal and as providing a cover for the U.S. Administration to go ahead with its plan to spread its hegemony over the world and paralyze the opinion and will of other nations.

In its editorial today, the newspaper says that for the first time in the history of mankind, a nation has been exposed to an unjust siege imposed by warships in an attempt to starve the brave Iraqi people.

It says that responsibility for the possible results of this brutal siege will lie with those who participated in the

land, sea, and air siege of Iraq and who prevented food, milk, and medicine from reaching Iraq's children. It adds that this is a disgraceful and shameful precedence.

The newspaper notes that those who have known the Iraqi people and their historic leadership realize that such resolutions will only increase their belief in the cause they are trying to attain in expression of the will of the faithful Arabs and Muslims and all the free men in the world.

The newspaper urges all world free opinion forums to expose the ugly American conspiracy against the Iraqi people and their children because it constitutes an unprecedented challenge to human rights, international charters, and human values.

Paper Says U.S. Policeman Role Endangers World

JN2911144190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that Iraq's rejection of the Security Council resolutions not only stems from a feeling of injustice and legitimate self-defense, but from its belief that these resolutions could be the beginning of the law of the jungle once again prevailing the world.

The newspaper affirms in its editorial today that these dangerous, oppressive, and unjust resolutions have been issued with suspiciously unusual speed due to the U.S. pressure. The historically unprecedented dangerous resolution—the resolution aimed at starving the Iraqi people—needed only a few hours in the so-called Security Council, while many other resolutions were issued within a period of only two months.

The newspaper calls on the international community, including the UN organizations, to be aware of the dangers facing the international situation now that the United States has appointed itself world policeman. It stresses that the international community must contemplate the future state of the world through the resolutions issued against Iraq, especially the resolution to starve its people. This precedent in international dealings will become a law that the United States will apply whenever it wishes on the people of this world whose policies and options are at odds with the aggressive policy of the United States.

The paper concludes that the selectivity followed by the Security Council in issuing its American resolutions have placed it in an exposed aggressive position toward the Palestine question. This is because it rejected the link between this important cause, whose repercussions continue to be felt in the region, and while the Palestinian people continue to suffer from the occupation and the Zionist terrorism, and the so-called Gulf crisis. Objectivity necessitates a link between these two issues if a stable and comprehensive peace in the region is to be achieved.

Issues on Agenda of Shamir-Bush Meeting Viewed

Shamir Not To Raise New Ideas

TA2911112690 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Nov 90 p 3

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Excerpt] In his meeting with Bush, the prime minister has no intention of raising new ideas regarding the political process. He plans to stress his commitment to the cabinet's political initiative and to point out to the President that any solution of the Palestinian issue must be agreed upon by the parties. This was reported yesterday by Shamir's associates involved in preparing for the visit.

Israel has not assumed sovereignty over the territories and has thereby signaled its readiness to enter into negotiations on a political settlement. At the same time, Shamir emphasized to his associates that a government under his leadership would not accept any solution that entails a territorial withdrawal from western Eretz Yisra'el.

During his visit in Washington the issue of the instability of the Jordanian regime will be broached, with an emphasis on the fact that a changing political situation warrants Israeli action to maintain its security.

The prime minister told his associates that he hopes that the Bush-al-Asad meeting would not encourage the Syrian president to engage in anti-Israel aggression such as that noticed lately in the security strip in Lebanon. Shamir added that he intends to explain to Bush that from Israel's standpoint President al-Asad is no different than Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Shamir To Seek More Housing Funds

TA2911061590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Text] As the housing shortage for new immigrants reaches catastrophic proportions, Prime Minister Shamir is prepared to ask President Bush for "billions" of dollars in additional U.S.-backed housing guarantees at their meeting next month, senior officials in the Prime Minister's Office said.

While it appears likely that Shamir will make the request, it is not clear whether he will ask for a specific figure, sources said.

The U.S.-backed guarantees are critical for a badly needed infusion of investment capital for Israel's housing industry. The shortage of such capital and the current fiscal crunch are major reasons why there have only been 10,000 government-sponsored construction starts this year, instead of the 45,000 planned by the cabinet, a figure which in itself grossly underestimated the need.

The U.S. guarantees provide a financially-strapped Israel with a sure line of credit from U.S. commercial banks, as well as ensuring loans at preferential interest rates, with 25 to 30 years for repayment.

Besides the immediate needs, Israel has an interest in requesting the guarantees before new U.S. legislation making them more difficult to obtain takes effect in 11 months. The new law makes such guarantees a government expenditure in a deficit-ridden U.S. budget.

Shamir might improve his chances for receiving the guarantees by personally reiterating to Bush that he endorses Foreign Minister David Levi's letter to Secretary of State James Baker two months ago. That letter promised that Israel would not settle Soviet Jewish immigrants over the Green Line and that the government will provide an accounting to the U.S. of its settlement activity.

Shamir informed the administration a month ago, by way of the Israeli Embassy in Washington, that he accepted the Levi letter.

Another objective of the Bush-Shamir meeting will be to restore a modicum of civility to the personal relationship between the two leaders. Despite Bush's fondness for phone conversations with world leaders, he has refused to call Shamir since February.

Western diplomats hope that the issue of settlements, which has been one of the central sources of strife between the two, will not figure prominently in the meeting. They privately fear that Shamir will make provocative statements on this issue on the eve of the White House meeting during his Jabotinsky Prize acceptance speech on December 10.

Reaction to UN Proposal Regarding 'Ombudsman'

Justice Minister Comments

TA2911080490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Telephone interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Mikha Friedman and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Before discussing our creative ideas on the peace process we will deal with UN creations. Good morning, Justice Minister Dan Meridor.

[Meridor] Good morning.

[Friedman] We have no doubt what your response will be, but for the record because we have not yet heard an official Israeli declaration on this issue: Does Israel completely reject the idea of an ombudsman for the territories on behalf of the United Nations?

[Meridor] There is no logic or justification in linking two issues that are completely unconnected—the Iraqi question and the Israeli-Arab conflict. I hope that the United States will not make a mistake because there is no reason

to station an ombudsman here. There are no longer commissioners in Israel [a reference to the British commissioner during the pre-state mandate] and I do not believe they are needed.

[Friedman] What if we assume that the commissioner will deal only with events in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and will leave Jerusalem alone? Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—even under our definition—are occupied territories. Therefore, what harm can be done to Israel's sovereignty if we agree to cooperate with that UN official?

[Meridor] First, it is not true to say that about us. We do not believe that Judaea and Samaria are occupied territories. They were captured by Husayn and are no longer under his control.

[Friedman] What is the legal definition for those areas?

[Meridor] There could be a controversy over that. We presently call them territories held by Israel. There is no other sovereignty over them. King Husayn has already officially given up his sovereignty over them. I propose, therefore, that we stop calling them occupied territories since the person who had claimed sovereignty over them admits he no longer is sovereign there. That, however, is not the main issue. I believe the main issue is presently the Iraqi crisis and not the Israeli-Arab dispute. It is a pity if somebody in the United States believes that the Americans need the Arabs more than the Arabs need them, and that the Americans have to pay an Israeli price to maintain the coalition. That idea is the life support of the Arab world that opposes or fears Saddam Husayn.

[Levi] Still, the Israeli-Arab dispute is on the Security Council's agenda. What do you have to say about Israel's relations with the United Nations, where a new proposal is raised from time to time and is rejected by Israel? Even a proposal that appears acceptable to both sides, the emissary on behalf of the UN secretary general, is not being implemented for the time being.

[Meridor] I regret that is the situation and that is the mechanism there. If someone expects the Security Council—in which countries like Cuba, the last Stalinist regime, or Yemen are members—to serve as a court to determine what is just and unjust for Israel, then I suggest that he wise up. The debate there is not over justice but over brute power. The United States has considerable clout; it has the right of veto. For many years the United States and the rest of the world knew that there were resolutions to which Washington would not agree in the Council, and therefore the position of the United States was easier. I hope the U.S. position will not change because any surrender to pressure from enlightened states such as Cuba and Yemen will bring about further pressure which will lead to attempts to link the two crises, as Saddam Husayn wants, but as we and the United States do not want.

[Friedman] What will happen if the United States nevertheless supports that proposal, perhaps in a watered-down version? Would the United States be acting contrary to any understanding it reached with us, based on which Israel agreed to permit the arrival of Jean-Claude Aimee, the secretary general's envoy?

[Meridor] There is no connection between the two things. We agreed to Jean-Claude Aimee's arrival. If that issue is worked out, he will be coming and we will receive him, just as we did when he was here several months ago. That has nothing to do with the current proposal which I hope will not be approved. That proposal will not serve peace in any way, but it will again link the process with the PLO and its demands. We must understand that prior to the meetings of Dennis Ross in the coming week or two, before the prime minister's visit to the United States, and before the nature of the dispute between us and the United States several months ago in February and March, they said that the process we proposed—our peace plan—could not be promoted without the participation of the PLO, either overtly or covertly. I hope the United States has wised up after that mistake, after 'Arafat's embrace with Saddam Husayn. I also hope there is currently more understanding for the fact that the PLO cannot be an interlocutor, not only because we do not wish it but because the PLO—based on its behavior and declarations—is not interested in peace but in a Middle East based on the Saddam Husayn formula. If the United States accepts that, and if that is what its leaders really think, then it is possible that there is room—and I certainly hope there is—for renewed discussions on the Israeli peace plan in order to start talks or prepare for elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip so that we can finally hold a dialogue with the Arabs with whom we live.

[Levi] But the Americans do not want to discuss specifically the Israeli peace plan; they expect new, creative ideas from us. What sort of ideas can we present them?

[Meridor] A code word is used when you are asked for something and you do not provide it; you are told to be creative or to come up with new ideas. We have proposed one plan after the other since the establishment of the state, recently at Camp David, and later the 14 May 1989 plan under the national unity government. It is a far-reaching plan that poses risks. I believe there was general agreement between us and the Americans on the plan, except for one point that hid behind the wording they used, which was the participation of the PLO. The United States unofficially wanted the PLO's agreement or green light for the plan. That, in my view, was a grave mistake in understanding the problem because the PLO will never agree to a process in which it does not play a central role, or to a process in which a leadership that will develop in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will talk with us. Even if that leadership swears it loves the PLO, it will be a different leadership. I hope there is now more creativity on the part of the United States and that they understand Middle East reality and PLO intentions. If that is the case, then there is a chance that in the talks

we will be having with the United States we will be able to reach more understandings in order to advance a process that is based on talks with the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The process will be difficult since there is no agreement between us and the Arabs, but it is worthwhile and important to begin. We will also be able to discuss more important issues with the United States—if I am permitted to say they are more important—especially the aliyah and our real need for guarantees for loans of substantial amounts, similar to the sums Egypt received recently, in order to enable us to push the economy forward.

Commentary by Papers

TA2911120190

[Editorial Report] Two Hebrew-language newspapers on 29 November carry reports on the initiative to dispatch an ombudsman or commissioner on behalf of the United Nations to report on the situation in the territories, and on the impending arrival of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's emissary Jean-Claude Aime.

Writing on page A1 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ, political reporter 'Aqiva Eldar notes that Aime's visit is being "delayed over difficulties in arranging meetings for him with Palestinian representatives." He notes that despite their efforts, the UN organizations in the territories have failed to arrange the meetings as "the Palestinians prefer to ignore them, evidently on instructions from the PLO leadership."

Mikhal Qedem, writing on page 5 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT, notes: "Senior Palestinian figures in the territories yesterday noted their satisfaction with the proposal that an ombudsman on behalf of the territories be sent to the territories. 'What is Israel afraid of,' they asked yesterday? 'If it is so right and its policy in the territories is so humane, why does it object to the dispatch? Let the representative come, hear the Palestinians' gripes, tour the area, observe the facts, and send a report.'"

According to the same report, Furayh Abu-Mudin, the head of the Gaza Strip bar association, said that "a UN representative may somewhat deter the Army and prevent it from acting like a sheriff.

"Other notables in the territories had reservations about the fact that the visitor would be the guest of the State of Israel.

"'He should be independent,' they said, 'so that he does not see only what the Army will show him.'

"As'ad al-Saftawi, a leading Gaza Strip figure, said that the envoy may help extinguish fires, but it is hard to imagine that he would manage to make the Israeli Government budge."

Ilan Kfir reports on the same page of HADASHOT and says: "The inclination among the top political-security echelon in Israel is to reject out of hand any UN Security Council initiative to send an ombudsman to the territories. Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that Israel would not lend its hand to an initiative that would accept a commissioner who would report regularly about Israeli actions in the territories.

"Jerusalem is disappointed with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar for not having so far stood up to the agreement reached in tripartite U.S.-Israeli-UN contacts on the dispatch to Israel of Jean-Claude Aime as a compromise between Israel and the United Nations over the Temple Mount."

Shamir Interviewed on Gulf Crisis, Intifadah

PM2111094690 Paris LE FIGARO MAGAZINE in French 17 Nov 90 pp 62-63

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Robert Lacontre in Jerusalem—date not given]

[Text] [Lacontre] What is the attitude of the West Bank Arabs to the Gulf war?

[Shamir] It is very difficult to understand them because what they are doing is against their interests. For instance, almost all of them now adore Saddam Husayn. They should know that this is just another illusion. Nobody will succeed in destroying Israel. This is increasingly obvious each day. The only possible way in which the Arabs here can have a better, more normal, and more peaceful life is by negotiation with us. Instead of that, they prefer to revere Saddam Husayn, to create a personality cult around him. Many of the Arabs are intelligent people who are not naive, but there is something in their character which means that they often take their wishes for reality.

[Lacontre] It is rather surprising to see a socialist atheist leader calling for holy war.

[Shamir] Socialist? Who is a socialist today? What is socialism? Is it Soviet socialism, or Romanian socialism? As regards Arab fanaticism, things are much clearer. It is weakening the Arab world. It therefore strengthens us. It gives us more strength and more unity. In our country, for instance, the left virtually no longer exists precisely because of the extremism of the whole Arab world. When you see their enthusiasm for Saddam Husayn, you stop believing in peace and we become extremists too. People lean toward the extreme right. That is why there are a growing number of people who want my government to continue.

[Lacontre] Does this Gulf crisis help or hinder you?

[Shamir] This cannot help Israel. This confrontation is taking place in our area. At present we cannot talk peace with anybody.

[Lacontre] Yes, but you are criticized for being rather silent in this crisis.

[Shamir] That is very understandable. Saddam Husayn and the most extreme Arabs are trying to present the Gulf war as a confrontation between Israel and the Arab world. This is not true. We are not involved in this tragedy. If Saddam Husayn wanted us to be involved in this war, he would attack us, but that is another matter. I do not believe that he will do so. That would cost him too dear.

[Lacontre] According to you, the recent Temple Mount events in Jerusalem are not directly linked to the Gulf crisis? You regard them as a spontaneous outburst.

[Shamir] It was not spontaneous.

[Lacontre] Have you detected foreign agitators?

[Shamir] Some of the local Arabs are seeking to shed blood, even if it is Arab blood, because that serves their objectives. What we must understand—and I do not know if this has ever been explained—is the Arabs' view of human life. For them life is not important. Al-Sadat once said that he was prepared to sacrifice a million Arabs to settle the Palestinian affair. He was sincere, because for the Arabs one million more or less is unimportant. In our country and in your country, the reverse is true. As the wise man says, in saving one child, one woman, one man, one old man, you are saving the whole world. You have seen the massacres in Lebanon which were ultimately pointless. This is the main cause of the tragedy taking place here.

[Lacontre] Does the Gulf war bring together the two warring brothers—Saddam Husayn and 'Arafat?

[Shamir] As you know, 'Arafat is rapidly declining. He is not respected. He no longer has prestige. I do not think that this is surprising. It is a matter of time. He must vanish from the political scene because he is not bringing any solution. He cannot achieve anything by means of terrorism.

[Lacontre] You have said that the only course is negotiation. But you refuse to have talks with him.

[Shamir] No, it is he who is refusing negotiations with us. He wants to be president of a Palestinian state immediately. He will never have that role because we will never accept a Palestinian state. This is the Israeli state, and that is final.

[Lacontre] What about Jordan?

[Shamir] That is more complicated. King Husayn is a very reasonable man. He has long experience. But he is now in a very difficult situation. It is in our interests for him to stay. One day he will play an important role in negotiations with us. For the time being, he is watching his border which is calm.

[Lacontre] But is the intifadah led by the PLO?

[Shamir] By people who think like the PLO.

[Lacontre] International moral opinion is scandalized by Saddam Husayn's attitude, but it was never scandalized by that of Hafiz al-Asad who seized Lebanon. Why? Is it that the former case involves oil but in the latter case nobody is interested in the Lebanese people's fate any longer?

[Shamir] That is one explanation. The world is accustomed to the Lebanese killings. They no longer even shock people. It is an everyday situation like rain.

[Lacontre] Why keep the Gaza strip and the million restless Arabs in it? This is costing you dear and, furthermore, has nothing to do with the occupied territories—it is not Biblical land.

[Shamir] We are not going to share out our small country's land. There is no question of making any gifts. As regards the occupied territories, as you say, we are forced by the Camp David agreements to negotiate on these territories which are nonetheless part of our country.

[Lacontre] People say that Saddam Husayn is mad, he is being called all kinds of names. In fact he may be very cunning. He invades Kuwait, negotiates with the Western countries, withdraws his troops, and obtains a piece of land to give him access to the Gulf. What do you think of this hypothesis?

[Shamir] It is not for us to solve this problem. It concerns the invasion of a country, and the oil question and this concerns everybody. We are only a small part of this world.

[Lacontre] Yes, but you attacked Iraq and destroyed the Osiris nuclear power stations when it became too dangerous for you.

[Shamir] I repeat that if Saddam Husayn attacks us, we will defend ourselves. Saddam Husayn is now a threat to all, including the neighboring Arab countries.

[Lacontre] Why do you think he attacked Kuwait? Is it because he could not return his million demobilized soldiers to civilian life or because he had domestic problems?

[Shamir] I do not think so. He has in mind the fact that Iraq and Kuwait account for 20 percent of world oil reserves. In addition, he wanted to get his hands on the Kuwaitis' financial reserves. That country is very rich. But, at present, I do not think he is sleeping easily.

[Lacontre] This Gulf situation is dragging on. Nobody can see a solution. If the West does not attack, he will keep Kuwait. What can be done?

[Shamir] It is not to me that you should address that question, but to President Bush, President Mitterrand, and Mrs. Thatcher.

[Lacontre] Let us return to Israel. Ultimately, it is not the Gulf crisis which is the greatest threat to Israel but the

Arab population explosion. There are already almost as many Arabs as Israelis, and in 20 years' time the imbalance will be terrible.

[Shamir] If you are talking about population, you must take account of the mass immigration of Soviet Jews at present. They are coming here to be happy, and to work. They are motivated. That is why Israel is becoming stronger. More than 1,000 arrive each day.

[Lacontre] Is it the collapse of communism which has made these large-scale migrations possible?

[Shamir] Yes, it is the direct result of that.

Further Reaction to Shamir Sea-to-River Remark

Linked to 'Growing Arab Extremism'

TA2111153490 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 20 Nov 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Shamir Reveals His Intentions!"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has alleged that there are negative phenomena in Jordan and that this country is undergoing a phase of "hysteria and Islamic fanaticism." He added that this was the reason for the border violations. On the same day, Shamir stated that Israel should retain the "land of Israel" from the sea to the river for future generations and for the Jewish people's mass immigration.

A connection must be made between these Shamir statements, because the phenomena in Jordan, whether positive or negative, are directly linked to Israel's schemes in the region. The Arab people in Jordan, as well as in all the Arab states, believe and are convinced of Shamir's clearly stated plans. This drives the Arab people toward extremism and fanaticism and makes the chances of achieving any settlement in the region more difficult. All rational people in the region, whether Arabs or Jews, would have preferred to hear from Shamir statements indicating that he accepts international legitimacy, which affirms that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as well as Arab Jerusalem are occupied territories. Since 1967, Israel has been called upon by more than one UN Security Council and General Assembly resolution to withdraw from these territories, while affirming the inadmissibility of seizing land by force.

Shamir's remarks will increase what he has called the negative phenomena in the Arab world, because these remarks will reinforce suspicions and the rejection of any peaceful settlement. Shamir stated in a loud voice that the Soviet immigrants will be settled in the occupied Palestinian territories at the expense of the Palestinian people's children, who are the real owners of the land and who are being deprived of the right to live in dignity in their homeland.

There is a direct link between Shamir's statements and growing Arab extremism. These statements close the door in the face of all those trying to reach peace and settle the Palestinian problem on the basis of land for peace. Shamir's talk is clear proof of Israel's plans of expansion at the expense of Arab land, indicating that Israeli strategy is based on the permanence of conflict, wars, and disputes which leave behind destruction, frustration, and despair, leading to what Shamir has called "Islamic fanaticism." Perhaps herein lies the real answer as to why the Palestinians support President Saddam Husayn.

If Shamir's remarks have embarrassed a lot of Israelis, they must have also embarrassed President George Bush and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. What is their response to this disdain for Security Council resolutions? And why does Washington continue to offer financial, military, and political aid to Israel when its prime minister clearly states his rejection of international legitimacy and its resolutions? The Bush and Thatcher slogan that rejects Iraq's occupation of Kuwait induces every human being with a conscience to ask: "Does this slogan not apply to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories?" And why are these resolutions applied to Iraq and ignored in other places? Does this not prove the West's lack of credibility, and affirm its double standards?

As to Shamir's concern for Jordan and his apprehension that the situation there will deteriorate, we tell him that in Jordan there is a nation determined to preserve its sovereignty and existence, which is rallying around its king and leadership, and which enjoys a national unity that is to be envied. Perhaps what is scaring Shamir is the democratic evolution in Jordan.

King Husayn's regime is solid as a rock because it did not come to power on top of a tank; rather, this regime originates from the conscience of a proud Arab nation faithful to the principles of the great Arab revolution, whose flame is raised aloft by generation after generation.

No 'Slip of the Tongue'

TA2811151590 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 26 Nov 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Shamir Reflects Policy"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reiterated this week his government's definite and unmoving stand, a long way away from a settlement of the Palestinian Question. Speaking before members of his Likud Party Nov. 18, Shamir said that "the past leaders of the (Likud) party left us a clear message to keep the land of Israel from the (Mediterranean) sea to the Jordan (River), for future generations and for the mass immigration, and for the Jewish people, most of whom will be gathered into this country."

This is not the first time Shamir or other top Israeli decision-makers have uttered such statements. Not too long ago, Shamir said Israel needs all the territories it now controls to absorb the masses of immigrants from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The international

condemnation this statement provoked led him to restate it and explain himself in more acceptable terms.

Scandals notwithstanding, here he goes again, stating exactly the same thing. Neither Shamir nor his apologists can dismiss this any longer as a slip of the tongue or insist that he did not mean what he said.

Everyone knows that Shamir means exactly what he says. He and the rest of the Likud are disciples of Vladimir Jabotinsky, the father of Revisionist Zionism, whose platform called for establishing greater Israel not only "from the sea to the Jordan" but from the Euphrates in Iraq all the way to the Nile in Egypt and south to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. Likud's members do not hide their adherence to the teachings and beliefs of Jabotinsky. After all, the Likud meeting was held in the Jabotinsky House in Tel Aviv.

After 23 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and intense efforts to create facts on the ground in these territories, it should not be a surprise that what Shamir states is exactly the undeclared policy of the government of Israel. Those who justify Israel's reluctance to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip on "security" grounds do this as a cover for Israel's real expansionist and megalomaniacal policy.

The slain leader of the racist KAKH movement, Rabbi Me'ir Kahana, once said that many Israelis, officials and laymen, share his "greater Israel" sentiments. The only difference between him and the others is that he says what they only think.

Apparently, no matter how hard Shamir tries to act diplomatically, he cannot hide his true feelings and his government's policy for long. He actually loves to repeat his statement—much more at every occasion—and would not object to being considered a second Kahana. But this could hurt Israel's image abroad. So he bites his tongue and keeps his mouth shut... except when he slips.

The international community cannot continue to fool itself into believing that Shamir will one day make concessions for peace out of the goodness of his heart. Twenty-three years is a long enough period for the international community to determine that Israel is not interested in a just, peaceful settlement.

So what is the international community waiting for? Another devastating war or genocide? The Palestinian Question cannot be put off indefinitely. It needs to be seriously dealt with—and immediately. The Security Council is currently debating some aspects of the Palestinian Question. Let us hope it will come up with a significant proposal for a solution this time.

Spokesman on Resumption of British-Syrian Ties

TA2811182390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] On the first significant policy change since Mr. Major took over from Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Hurd told Parliament this afternoon that Britain is to resume diplomatic ties with Syria with immediate effect. [passage omitted]

In Israel, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said, as far as Jerusalem is concerned, Syria is a country which insists on being at war with Israel and which also supports terrorism. The spokesman said Israel only hopes that this step will not encourage Syria's aggressive policy and will help induce Damascus to orient itself toward peace.

Arens Says IDF To Continue Lebanese Operations

TA2911104590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens this morning toured southern Lebanon in the area where the clash with terrorists occurred Tuesday night. The defense minister met with Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, and with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders in the sector to receive a report on the debriefing being conducted on the incident.

The defense minister said the IDF is operating in Lebanon to prevent terrorists from organizing and to keep terrorist squads from infiltrating into Israel. The minister said all branches of the IDF will continue to operate against the terrorist organizations to assure the security of the State of Israel.

'Major Reappraisal' of Army Procedures Planned

TA2911092690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Nov 90 pp 1, 10

[Report by Bradley Burston and David Rudge]

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] senior command is to undertake a major reappraisal of operational and training procedures following the terror-related deaths of 10 soldiers in as many days, military sources confirmed last night.

Under particular scrutiny will be the claim that in some of the cases, the soldiers showed lack of basic riflery skills, shortages of ammunition, and reluctance to use their weapons, even when attacked.

Initial assessments of Jordanian and Egyptian border incidents over the past three weeks have indicated that, in addition to organizational and operational laxity, individual soldiers displayed a marked inability in firing their weapons and in hitting and stopping their targets, even when the terrorists were greatly out-numbered.

The sources stressed, however, that charges of insufficient training and deficient performance under fire do not apply to the five Giv'ati Brigade soldiers killed late Monday in southern Lebanon. Sources said that the combat engineers company to which the soldiers belonged was one of the finest infantry units in the IDF.

Sources rejected published reports that a recent tour of duty in Gaza's al-Burayj refugee camp had impaired the unit's combat effectiveness.

According to a report in yesterday's HA'ARETZ, the soldiers involved in the clash had used up most of their ammunition before they charged two surviving members of the four-man terrorist squad.

According to initial reports, the soldiers, lying in ambush, opened fire from a distance of 40 meters at the terrorists who were walking in single file.

Two of the gunmen from George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine were killed in the first burst. The two survivors managed to take cover behind boulders and returned fire and hurled grenades when the Giv'ati soldiers left their own position and charged, killing the five. The surviving gunmen, one of whom was wounded, escaped. [passage omitted]

Arens Urges Egypt To Foil Anti-Israeli Attacks

TA2811155590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Report from the Knesset by Yaron Toren]

[Excerpts] Since the peace agreement with Egypt was signed, 30 Israeli civilians and eight soldiers have been killed in terrorist attacks launched from the Egyptian side; 49 civilians and soldiers were wounded in these events. In the past two years, five soldiers were killed and two wounded on the Jordanian border in terrorist attacks launched from the east. This data was given out by Defense Minister Moshe Arens at the Knesset plenum today, in reply to a series of motions on the agenda related to the attack on the Egyptian border and the infiltrations in the Jordan Rift Valley.

The defense minister noted that an incitement campaign designed to promote radical anti-Israeli trends has recently been pursued in Arab countries. The campaign is marked by the influence of Saddam Husayn's Iraq. As a result, we have recently witnessed incidents in which inflamed Arabs launched attacks along Israel's borders and inside Israel.

On the Jordanian border, said Arens, the security forces have succeeded—despite the heavy price—in preventing Jewish casualties. The recent wave of infiltrations and attempted infiltrations is the result of the radicalization inside Jordan, said the defense minister. [passage omitted]

In the debate on the murders near Elat, left-and right-wing Knesset members [MK's] were unanimous in the view that the anti-Semitic propaganda in Egypt is one of the main factors behind the terrorism. The MK's, including the defense minister, called on Egypt to curb and eradicate the propaganda.

[Begin Arens recording] We know full well that the Egyptian Government, under the leadership of President Mubarak, opposes these horrendous acts of murder against innocent people, and it takes action to thwart them. At the same time, the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt charges Cairo with the duty to do more than foil the attempts to attack Israel; it must take action to prevent the poisonous anti-Israeli incitement waged in Egypt. [end recording]

Palestinian Figures Meet With Canadian Minister

TA2811171790 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Nov 90 pp 1, 11

[Report by 'Isam al-Kurd"]

[Text] Jerusalem—Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark and the delegation accompanying him met yesterday at the Mennonite Society office in the al-Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood with six West Bank figures and discussed the situation in the region and the Palestinian problem. Clark described the talks, which lasted about one hour, as good and useful, allowing him to become acquainted with the Palestinian viewpoint.

He added that he discussed the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian figures and its effect on the region. He also clarified his government's position, ruling out a linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem. Nevertheless, he believes that Palestinian rights should be taken into consideration within the framework of a peace plan in the region.

Clark explained that Palestinian rights could be achieved through a peace initiative agreed upon by the Palestinian and Israeli sides, and that the Canadian Government will continue its efforts toward this end.

Faysal al-Husayni described the talks as positive and said: "I explained to the Canadian minister that we believe it is necessary to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and that such a solution will help in resolving the Palestinian problem, if Western countries do not adopt a double position toward the two crises."

The Palestinian figures, comprising Faysal al-Husayni, Zuhayra Kamal, Dr. Anis al-Qaq, Ghassan al-Khatib, Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat briefed the Canadian minister on the political, economic, and educational situation in the occupied territories and the effect of the Gulf crisis on it. They also expounded on the Palestinian peace plan put forward by the PLO on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They called on the Canadian Government to support this initiative, upgrade the level of its contacts with the PLO, and back the idea of providing international protection for the Palestinian people as an interim stage.

The Palestinian figures also criticized the double standards and positions adopted on the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem and called on the Canadian Government to work with the international community or separately in providing aid to the Palestinian people.

AL-QUDS has learned that the Canadian Government has earmarked a considerable amount of money as aid for medical and educational institutions in the occupied territories, and that it will discuss the aid request seriously and in depth.

Developments, Events Relating to Territories

Arens on Current Policy

TA2111173090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpts] We will pursue our current policy in the territories despite the relative rise in the number of violent attacks in the past month, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today during a tour of the Hebron area. Arens commended Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, for the performance of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units in the territories. Udi Segal, our reporter in the territories, joined the tour and reports from Hebron:

The solution to the prevailing situation in the territories is for the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District to realize that violence impedes the political process, said Defense Minister Moshe Arens today. He emphasized that many Palestinians know that violence achieves nothing. The defense minister toured Hebron today and met with the chief of staff, the head of the Shin Bet, the commander of the Central Command, the head of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration, the deputy coordinator of government activities in the territories, and local commanders. The latter reviewed the situation in the area.

[Begin Arens recording] There was an increase in terrorist activity throughout Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District after the Temple Mount event, but I think that we are now witnessing a certain decrease in that. We plan to pursue the policy of guaranteeing the safety of all those who drive along Israel's roads, particularly in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. I believe that what has been done to date, here in the Central Command under Gen. Mordekhay, has had good results. I have heard as much from the settlers in the area. There is, of course, always room for improvement, and we plan to act in that direction. [end recording] [passage omitted]

As part of a series of meetings with local residents, Minister Arens also conferred with Arab personalities in Hebron. They laid before him specific problems relating to the population's welfare, and complained about clashes between the IDF and the Palestinian population. Arens said that everything should be done to enhance mutual respect among the nations to reach a dialogue.

[Begin Arens recording] I do not think there is any connection between Saddam Husayn and Iraq, the Temple Mount events, the violence that results from these two, and the political process. We would like to advance the latter, but if it progresses slowly or has not made any progress lately it is not Israel's fault, as you all know. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Arens Comments on Two Detainees

TA2811181790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Speaking at the Knesset today, Defense Minister Arens addressed the detention of Radwan Abu-'Ayyash and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad. The defense minister said that the two had been arrested because of their role in the body calling itself the Unified National Command of the Uprising.

[Begin Arens recording] The two men, who were detained about two weeks ago, were involved in the operations of a body calling itself the Unified National Command of the Uprising. Working in this framework, they participated in the formulation and distribution of leaflets and in other activities aimed at inciting the population to carry out violent acts and disturbances and to harm security in the area.

One of the detainees, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, was involved in proffering instructions to Fatah strike committees, which are the Fatah's operational arm and which carry out assassinations and other acts of violence. In addition, the man maintained continuous contacts with PLO activists abroad and in the Judaea and Samaria area.

Thus, the two men occupied a central place in organizing violent deeds perpetrated by the body calling itself the Unified National Command of the Uprising. [end recording]

128 Refused To Serve in Territories

TA2811181990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Two reservists, who refused to serve in the territories, have been sentenced to prison. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Sergeant Asher Rotem, 43, from Kibbutz Sede Yo'av, was sentenced to 28 days in prison, while First Sergeant Erez Harodi, a 27-year-old student, was sentenced to 14 days in prison.

Since the beginning of the intifadah, 128 reserve soldiers have refused to serve in the territories.

Local DFLP 'Strife' Analyzed

TA2611150990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Text] The victory of Hawatimah's supporters in the territories over 'Abd-Rabbuh's is now complete: It is the victory of the hard-liners of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] over the followers of 'Abd-Rabbuh, who is close to 'Arafat.

Zuhayra Kamal, one of the best known women activists in the territories, who has won a place in the first line of leaders and was considered an equal of Faysal al-Husayni, was ousted from the organization which she had headed—the Association of Palestinian Women's Labor Committees, and was even expelled from it. Last week, the association convened and elected a new leadership. In a statement issued this morning, the women announced that Kamal has been expelled from the organization and deprived of her status and rights.

Nuda Tuwayr, an almost unknown name to date, was elected to head the association. Knowledgeable sources said, however, that the name that counts in this context is that of Samiha al-Khalil, a famous woman activist from al-Birah, an extreme radical and a supporter of Hawatimah, who proclaims an anti-'Arafat line while remaining in the PLO.

The women's organization was the 'Abd-Rabbuh followers' last bastion. A few weeks ago, they lost the DFLP workers organization, which they had controlled. The reverberations of the struggle over this organization between ousted chairman Mahmud Ziyyadah and new chairman 'Adnan al-Kilani are still heard as the two sides continue issuing statements on the legality of the elections. The remnants of the struggle are also evident in the support of the roof organization of West Bank workers, which is headed by Shahir Sa'd—a pro-PLO organization, of course—for the new chairman.

And earlier still, the East Jerusalem news office Sanabil was taken over by Hawatimah's supporters, following a forcible takeover by 'Abd-Rabbuh's men. The struggle ended when the office was closed by an official order.

Eventually all this strife is likely to cause domestic difficulties in the Unified National Command of the Uprising, which is a sort of a coalition of the four main organizations. If the DFLP representation is led by a figure who opposes Fatah and its line, difficulties may result.

Another potential facet of the crisis is the DFLP's strike committees, which have already resorted to violence in an attempt to settle domestic disputes. Only last weekend, Zuhayra Kamal's home was burglarized, and at least one report said she had been beaten up.

27 Nov Incidents Reported

TA2811133090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Nov 90 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] The body of a school principal from Yasid, north of Nabulus, was found yesterday in Sabastiyah, seven weeks after he was kidnapped from his home by masked men.

Villagers said they did not know the reason for the killing of Yusuf Abu-Zayun, 46, who was not considered an informer.

—Local sources said soldiers opened fire on high school pupils who stoned a bus in Nabulus yesterday, wounding 12-year-old Muhammad Aysa in the left side. Al-Ihihad al-Nisa'i Hospital confirmed the injury.

—The mukhtar of Tulkarm camp, Hamad Mubarak, 60, was hospitalized Monday with stab wounds after being attacked by masked man in his home allegedly for being an Israeli agent, local sources said.

—Palestinian sources say that journalist Muhammad 'Amira, 48, was arrested Monday under a six-month administrative detention order. 'Amira, the Nabulus reporter of East Jerusalem's AL-SHA'B newspaper, has been frequently arrested before and during the intifada for his membership in Fatah. Military sources were unable to verify the report.

—Nabulus lawyer 'Adnan Abu-Laylah, 40, who represents prisoners in military courts, has been issued a green card preventing him from visiting clients in Megiddo and Qetzi'ot prisons inside Israel, Nabulus sources said.

—Unidentified assailants attacked the guard of the Cairo-Amman Bank in Janin yesterday and stole his pistol, local sources said.

—Betzelem, the human rights organization, has complained to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] about an incident in 'Askar refugee camp last Thursday, in which soldiers who burst through the sky-light of a house looking for a fugitive, broke into the bedroom of a married couple and rifled through drawers for an hour before discovering they were in the wrong place. The IDF confirmed the incident, but said the soldiers behaved according to regulations.

Volunteer Stabbed in Gaza

TA2811170890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Report by police affairs correspondent Yaron Toren]

[Excerpts] A Molotov cocktail was hurled last night at a supermarket in the Neve Ya'aqov neighborhood in northern Jerusalem. This morning, store workers discovered the remnants of the bottle which caused no damage.

Local disturbances were staged this morning in various parts of East Jerusalem. The al-Sawahirah school in the Jabal al-Mukabar neighborhood in southeast Jerusalem was closed for two days, after its students threw stones at policemen. At 1100 this morning, a contact glue can was hurled from the Dar al-Aytam school at the door of a Jewish home in the Old City's Muslim Quarter. Police entered the school and detained 30 students. In a search the police found three clubs, PLO flags, and another contact glue container. This school, too, was closed for two days.

An Israeli was slightly wounded by glass shards when the car in which she was riding was stoned near the Aram

Junction in northern Jerusalem. A bus No. 25 was stoned near Shu'fat; its windshield was shattered. One suspect was detained.

A Swedish national working as a nurse in Gaza's al-Ahali Hospital was stabbed in the back today by an Arab youth. She suffered moderately serious injuries. [passage omitted] The hospital staff protested the attack and declared a three-day strike. The Gaza District Police has assigned investigators to probe the incident if the nurse decides to file charges. The event is the first of its kind since the outbreak of the intifadah. The Gaza Strip Civil Administration has also sent administration officers to the hospital to obtain information and reactions to the murder attempt, which is regarded as an escalation in an unknown direction. The Gaza Strip institutions employ UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] officials and volunteer physicians from the United States and West Europe.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 28 November reports: "The Supreme Court has accepted the state attorney's appeal and convicted Shim'on Yifrah from Gush Qatif of killing a 17-year-old student from Khan Yunus. The judges revoked the seven-month suspended sentence which Yifrah received in the Beersheba District Court and sentenced him to 18 months in prison."

[The report adds that "the Tel Aviv District Court has passed a 10-year sentence on two youths from al-Tayyibah who had been convicted of car arson. Our correspondent notes that the punishment is one of the heaviest meted out for such an offense."

["In Rafah Muhammad al-Batumchi, 28, was shot in the head today. Masked individuals fired three shots at his head. He was transferred to al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus, and later to Tel Hashomer Hospital. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the assassination attempt was evidently prompted by the suspicion that the man had aided the authorities."]

IDF Alert on Anniversary

TA2911102690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] A bomb at a soldiers' hitchhiking station at the Segula Junction in Petah Tiqva was dismantled this morning without causing any damage. It was discovered during a routine morning check by police bomb disposal experts. Several Arabs in the area were detained for questioning.

Today is 29 November, the anniversary of the UN resolution on the partition of Palestine, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is on the alert to prevent rioting. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that curfews were imposed on several Gaza Strip locations. In Judaea and Samaria, Jazzin, Nabulus, and Hebron were declared closed military areas and residents were banned from leaving their towns.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 29 November reports that "Sirhan Abu-Sirhan, who murdered the three residents of Jerusalem's Baqa neighborhood, was given three consecutive life terms and an additional 20 years prison sentence. The Jerusalem District Court judges said that was the maximum punishment that could be handed down. Our correspondent reports that when Abu- Sirhan was removed from the courtroom, relatives of the murdered people tried to harm him, but police managed to get him out."]

Rabin Will Not Oppose Likud in Electoral Reform

TA2111172190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Rabin said that he, and at least another 10 fellow Alignment members, would be willing to promise that they would not act against the Likud Government or try to set up an alternative government if the Likud promises to strive for electoral reform during this Knesset's tenure.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that MK Rabin made these statements at a meeting with high school students in Bet She'an.

Sources Detail Supplement to Defense Budget

TA2911131190 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Nov 90 p A5

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] Defense sources have divulged the following details of the supplementary defense budget:

—$175 million to cover intifadah expenses.

—$180 million National Insurance refund as a result of slashed reserve service days.

—$25 million for the defense of the rear, mainly for gas mask distribution.

—$50 million state-of-alert supplement as a result of the situation in the Gulf, in addition to the already pledged $330 million. A decision on whether this sum is to be augmented will be made in January.

An unspecified addition to the special warfare methods development budget was also approved.

Law Passed on Legal Action Against Officeholders

TA2011152090 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Yaqir Tzur]

[Text] The Knesset plenum yesterday passed an amendment to the Basic Law: The State Comptroller in its second and third reading. The amendment stipulates that officeholders, including ministers and their deputies, may face trial and may be fined for failing to appear

before the Knesset Public Audit Committee without reasonable cause with regard to issues pertaining to the state comptroller's annual report.

Committee Chairman David Liba'i said the amendment enables the committee to take legal action against officials who are summoned to appear before the committee and do not provide justified cause for their failure to show up. The amendment nevertheless notes that the mandatory summoning of officials to appear before the committee must be approved by an absolute majority. When judicial matters are at stake, the only officials exempt from appearing before the committee are the president of the State, the Knesset speaker, and judges.

First Tel Aviv-Moscow Flight To Include Produce

TA2911105090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by Larry Derfner]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv—The first direct Moscow-Tel Aviv flight is scheduled to arrive on December 10 loaded with Soviet immigrants' luggage and to return to Moscow filled with 30-40 tons of free Israeli produce, the Agriculture Ministry said yesterday.

The free produce was offered by Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan to demonstrate the quality of Israeli crops to the Soviet Union, which is suffering severe food shortages. The ministry hopes to find a major market for Israeli farmers.

The luggage and produce will be carried on an Aeroflot charter cargo plane. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 29 November, in a report on page A4 by Arye Bender, adds: "The USSR is again demanding that the Israeli Government issue an official declaration that there is no intention of settling new immigrants beyond the Green Line. The Soviets presented that condition for the establishment of direct flights between the two countries, Immigrant Absorption Minister Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz disclosed.

["He claimed that the issue was raised in his meeting in Moscow last week."]

Lake Tiberias Water Level 'Lowest in 60 Years'

TA2311074990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] The already depleted water resources are being slowly drained, because of the unseasonably warm weather and lack of rain.

The water commissioner, in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, has plans to cut consumption next year by as much as 25 percent if less than average rain falls this winter, THE JERUSALEM POST was told yesterday. The water resources are so heavily overdrawn that even an average rainfall would be insufficient to replenish the aquifers and Lake Kinneret [Lake Tiberias], said Mordekhay Yacobovitch, spokesman for Meqorot [the water company], which provides water to the National Water Carrier.

"We are not recommending any cuts at this stage, although the minister of agriculture and the water commissioner may have to make such decisions if the situation worsens," said Yacobovitch. "In the meantime, all we can do is hope and pray that the rains come."

Meqorot reported that Lake Kinneret's level yesterday was minus 212.93 meters—the lowest in 60 years—and is continuing to drop by half a centimeter a day, even though Meqorot has reduced pumping from the lake into the National Water Carrier to only 150,000 cubic meters daily, compared to over one million cubic meters at the height of the summer. Meqorot is bound by law to stop pumping from the lake the moment the level reaches -213 meters.

The aquifers are only fractionally better off. The giant Yarqon Hataninim reservoir is just 60 cms above its "danger line" and the coastal aquifer is also nearing its danger mark.

In the case of aquifers, the danger line is a point slightly above the water table. The closer the level drops to the water table, the greater the dangers of pollution and salinity.

"If the warm weather continues, farmers will need more and more water for irrigation and the demand for water will increase throughout the country," Yacobovitch said.

Parliament Lower House Meets, Debates Issues

Views Gulf, Foreign Embassies

JN2811205090 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The Lower House of Parliament met in a session today and debated a number of issues. In reply to a question by Deputy Ahmad 'Uwayd on Jordanian efforts regarding the Gulf crisis, the Prime Minister Mudar Badran said the speech from the throne made it clear that Amman has become the center of diplomacy. He said the Jordanian position regarding its foreign policy is clear. The Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim said the Jordanian diplomacy undertook an important and outstanding role since the Gulf crisis erupted.

Deputies also raised a number of issues, including the impact of the Gulf crisis on the economy, the government measures regarding certain acts by foreign embassies, effects of the Jewish emigration to Israel, the returnees from Kuwait, and other issues.

The prime minister told the Parliament that the Security Council embargo has been imposed on Iraq only. He said Jordan informed world countries that it should be compensated for economic losses and that if a blockade in international waters imposed on Jordan has not been lifted, Jordan will lodge a complaint with the Security Council.

Urges PNG for U.S. Ambassador

JN2911075190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29-30 Nov 90 pp 1,5

[By 'Abdallah Hasanat, staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman—The prime minister, Mudar Badran, warned yesterday that his government would not stand still in the face of illegal attempts to impose an economic blockade against the Kingdom, and that Jordan would take the issue to the U.N. Security Council if these attempts persisted.

"We would ask for compensations for all our losses," the prime minister told the Lower House of Parliament amid calls by some deputies to declare the American ambassador in Amman persona non-grata [PNG].

The prime minister described the U.S.' and other nations' navies' actions in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba as a "blockade" on Jordan and an infringement of the sovereignty of the Kingdom. He said the government "would lodge a formal protest at the Security Council concerning freedom of navigation in the high seas."

The U.S. and its allies in the coalition against Iraq have, for the past three months, intercepted most of the ships destined for the port of al-'Aqabah, turned some of them back and, in at least one case, reportedly threw merchandise overboard.

Following last week's assertion by the government that the U.S. embassy in Amman had placed personnel on the border with Iraq to monitor Jordan's adherence to U.N. sanctions on that country, Deputy Mansur Murad called for the "expulsion of the U.S. ambassador for his spying activity."

"The ambassador is moving freely in Jordan despite his country's animosity towards Jordan and Arabs," Murad said. He said that the ambassador, during a recent visit to the municipality of Irbid, met with Jordanian dignitaries and asked them about Jordan's position in case war broke out in the Gulf.

Murad's call for the expulsion of the ambassador was seconded by Amman Deputy Fakhri Qa'war, a member of the Democratic Bloc," and Deputy Salim al-Zu'bi, an independent from Irbid.

"U.S. diplomats in Amman are interfering in our internal affairs... while U.S. navy is acting as a policeman in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea," Qa'war said.

Both Badran and his deputy, Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, confirmed that the Americans had placed a team on the border at the beginning of the Gulf crisis but that the team had long been withdrawn. However, al-Qasim said Wednesday that "some embassies might be conducting some activity that contradicts with diplomatic norms."

Concerning American naval actions in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea, al-Qasim said Jordan had made extensive contacts with the U.S. government and told it Jordan considers these actions to be illegal.

"I wrote to U.S. Secretary of State (James Baker) and expressed our opposition to what is happening to shipping to and from al-Aqabah port," al-Qasim told the House in response to a question put to him by Deputy Ahmad 'Uwayd al-'Abbadi.

The National Bloc in Parliament urged the government to reconsider its policy of adherence to U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq if the blockade against Jordan persisted.

"Our commitment to U.N. decisions is one matter, but our national security, which we consider part of Arab national security, is something else," said the bloc, which groups about 20 to 22 deputies in the house, in a statement read by Deputy Samir Qa'war (al- Balqa').

The bloc demanded that Jordan be fully compensated for all the losses the national economy suffered as a result of the suspension of trade with Iraq and Kuwait.

Deputy 'Isa al-Rimuni (Jerash) blasted the American campaign at the U.N. Security Council to obtain a 'mandate for attacking Iraq" and called on the government to counter it by asking the Security Council to convene and discuss Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement last week that Israel would not give up the West Bank and Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

On the crisis in the Gulf 'Alawi said that countries opposed to foreign troops' deployment in the Gulf should fight alongside Iraq against "Nazi forces led by America."

Foreign Minister's Statement

JN2911085990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
29 Nov 90 pp 20, 14

[Text] Amman, PETRA—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has made the following statement to the House of Representatives in answer to a query submitted by House Member Dr. Ahmad 'Uwaydi al-'Abbadi concerning the Jordanian diplomatic efforts on the Gulf crisis.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Mr. Speaker, honorable deputies:

The Foreign Ministry has dealt with the Gulf crisis as best as it could under the prevailing objective circumstances. As foreign minister, I and the Ministry have taken part in all meetings and diplomatic contacts concerning the crisis. The Ministry has contacted all foreign missions in Amman to inform them of the official Jordanian stand. And, as far as circumstances have allowed, I also informed our embassies abroad of the details of that stand so that they can convey it to the countries to which they are accredited and to explain it to the public in those countries.

I can say that our embassies' performance during the crisis has been very satisfactory, especially if we take into account the fact that a certain level of diplomatic action in a certain country requires some level of expenditure which our embassies do not have the funds to meet for reasons known to you all.

Some of our embassies have faced extremely difficult conditions, with which our diplomats have coped with a high degree of efficiency, affiliation, and discipline, and have quietly gone about their business.

Some of our ambassadors have succeeded in halting the media campaigns against Jordan in the countries to which they are accredited. Others have managed to limit those campaigns to a very large extent.

Our ambassadors have succeeded in keeping the channels of communication open with most Arab countries directly concerned with the crisis, with some very limited exceptions due to reasons beyond our control.

In addition to the contacts made by his majesty the king and his highness the crown prince with many world leaders and the contacts in which we have taken part during the foreign officials' visits to Amman, and since the crisis began, I have met and talked to scores of foreign ministers from various countries, including the influential countries or those directly concerned with the crisis. We have announced some of those meetings, but the majority were not announced because we believed that we were fulfilling our duty. We believed our duty is based on the bases laid by his majesty the king and the government, and is complimentary and a follow up to the Jordanian leadership's efforts.

The ministry has exerted distinguished efforts in the contacts with the United Nations and the UN Security Council members concerning the economic consequences resulting from Jordan's compliance by the UN Security Council resolutions.

Jordan was the first country to submit an official request to the Security Council for aid to cope with the effects of applying the UN resolutions. I also believe we are the only country to obtain a separate decision from the committee which was formed by the Security Council to follow up implementation of Resolution 661.

In our expression of the clear and principled Jordanian official stand we were faced with a strange mixture of unofficial stands and sentiments. Some of those stands and sentiments stemmed from innocence or ignorance, and others betrayed a desire to fish in troubled waters and distort the Jordanian stand.

Prompted by a strong sense of national duty, we clearly and faithfully outlined the Jordanian official stand and also tried our best to explain the present healthy atmosphere in the homeland; an atmosphere which permits the diversity of opinions and endeavors and allows full freedom of expression. As we said, the highest common denominator among the stands of all Jordanians is the concern for the interests and future of this nation.

I believe the difficulties resulting from our handling the Gulf crisis are political rather than diplomatic. I am sure everyone will agree with me that the circumstances in which our diplomats are functioning make it our duty to encourage them and show appreciation for their efforts rather than frustrate them and cast doubt on these efforts. I earnestly ask all my brothers not to hesitate to directly contact us about any query, idea, or question. By doing so, they might draw our attention to matters which have escaped our attention. Direct contact leads to correct information, for which we assume full responsibility. I do not think that I have failed to respond to any question by any of my brothers. In fact, everyone knows, especially the chairmen and members of the foreign affairs committees in both chambers of parliament, that the Foreign Ministry was often the one to initiate contact and consultations with the parliament, out of its conviction that Jordanian diplomacy must be backed by national unanimity and removed from any sensibilities and ambiguities, which would only undermine its ability to represent this country, express its viewpoint, and safeguard its interests.

Regarding the activities of certain embassies about which there is talk now, it is understood that diplomatic pacts and norms clarify legitimate activities and distinguish them from others. There are also certain specific procedures which embassies must follow to regulate their official contacts. The Foreign Ministry makes a point to

remind embassies of these procedures when it is informed of any excesses. This calls for closer cooperation among all parties, whether in arranging meetings or any other activities. The Foreign Ministry should be informed of these activities.

I feel that raising this issue would require a detailed study of the diplomatic activity in Jordan. This is because I believe that many embassies, besides the one about which there is talk, are carrying out activities incompatible with diplomatic norms.

I admit that the nature of this country and the prevailing freedom may facilitate such trespasses. I believe that the clear trespasses related to the economic blockade should be faced. For instance, the parties that have information on this should pass it on to us so that we can do what is necessary. But as for the subject in general, it may be more appropriate to adjust matters gradually in a manner that serves our national security. We have recently asked embassies to abide by arranging official appointments through the ministry.

For example, the interception of ships in the Tiran Straits. The government has made contacts on various levels with the United States regarding this subject. We have told it that we consider this an illegal act. We have also asked the committee set up by the UN Security Council to send an observer or observers from the United Nations to verify our compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions. The committee has approved this request and we are awaiting the necessary and appropriate arrangements in this regard. I have also sent a letter to the U.S. secretary of state in which I explained that we object to the acts begin carried out against navigation to and from al-'Aqabah Port, and that we reserve our right to demand compensation for the losses to the national economy and the Jordanians' interests resulting from these acts.

This is all I have to say about the crisis which we are discussing. I would like to say that in the past three months, I have met with over 40 foreign ministers, some of whom had a distorted picture about this country. The constant attempts to encroach on this country's credibility and sovereignty is what makes us carry on with the appropriate discreet contacts, which are not necessarily made public through the media to explain what Jordan has done and is doing.

Jordan's circumstances must be appreciated. I believe that most of the brother members of the House appreciate the sensitivity of the circumstance and conditions and the need for careful dealing with this major problem.

With this I hope that I have answered the query or question put to me. I am fully prepared to answer questions on any other subject which might be raised. Thank you.

King Congratulates UK's Major on Election

JN2811170490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1640 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, 28 Nov (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable to Mr. John Major congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of the Jordanian Government and people on his election as leader of the Conservative Party and prime minister.

His majesty wished Mr. Major success in leading his country for the good of Britain and humanity at this critical stage, and in promoting a better future for humanity against all the dangers that threaten it.

His majesty emphasized the good relations that bind Britain and Jordan, expressing hope that there would be a mutual eagerness to develop and promote these relations.

King Husayn Receives Visiting Omani Minister

JN2811180090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] At the Royal Court this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn received Mr. Yusuf Bin-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Sultanate of Oman. Mr. Bin-'Alawi conveyed to his majesty a message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman within the context of the ongoing consultations between the two brotherly countries on the Gulf crisis and close bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the royal court, the political adviser to his majesty the king, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Omani ambassador to Amman.

Omani Minister Departs

JN2811180990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Amman this evening, after handing a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman.

Upon his departure, Bin-'Alawi talked to reporters on the outcome of his visit to Jordan. He said:

[Begin Bin-'Alawi recording] I have had the honor of meeting his majesty the king. I delivered the message of his majesty the sultan, and briefed him on the perspective of his brother his majesty the sultan. His majesty the king demonstrated full understanding and said he hoped that the Arab nation would be able to overcome the crisis in the coming days. No doubt, all of us are working so that joint Arab action will be useful. We are fully confident that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, under the leadership of King Husayn, aims to foment cooperation and achieve the wellbeing of the Arab nation. [end recording]

Yemen Foreign Minister Arrives in Amman

JN2911122890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani arrived in Amman last night from Algiers after having delivered a message to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid from Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, on the current situation in the region.

The brother foreign minister is expected to deliver a similar message to His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, the Jordanian monarch, this morning, Thursday.

Al-Iryani Briefs King

JN2911123690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Court this afternoon Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Yemen. Mr. al-Iryani conveyed to his majesty a message from Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen, on the latest developments of the Gulf crisis and Arab efforts being made to find a peaceful settlement to this crisis.

Dr. al-Iryani also briefed his majesty on the outcome of the talks the U.S. secretary of state held with the Yemeni leadership during his visit to Sanaa last week.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the Hashemite Royal Court and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Israeli Reinforcements, Overflights Reported

NC2811172790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] A NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the resisting south has reported that the occupation forces last night brought 40 armored vehicles and 400 troops to the central and eastern sectors. A convoy of armored vehicles was seen entering the occupation forces' positions on Kawkaba ridges. A second convoy was spotted crossing the al-Hasbani bridge toward Hasbayya.

The Israeli vehicles and troops were distributed among the militias' border positions in Zaghla and 'Ayn Qinya. Other vehicles took up positions in al-Birah between Shwayya and Shab'a. A number of ambushes were laid on road junctions in the area.

In a similar development, a 40-man Israeli force advanced four km north of the occupied area in the eastern sector. The force searched areas near 'Ayn Tanta and Mimas. Four M-113 armored personnel carriers advanced three km north of the contact line and arrived in Mimas valley during the night. Meanwhile, an Israeli drone flew over the area.

Israeli helicopters carried out intensive flights over the international borders between Lebanon and the occupied territories this morning.

A state of anxiety continues to reign in the occupied border region, and the occupation troops and militias are gripped with panic as a result of the painful blows dealt to them by the resistance fighters over the past few days.

Military Activities Reported

NC2911110790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Israeli military reinforcements and movements in the south are continuing. The Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir front erupted only a few days before the Army is to deploy in Iqlim al-Tuffah following the complete implementation of the Greater Beirut Plan.

At 0730 this morning, an Israeli motorized force proceeded in the direction of Shab'a. At 0800, a helicopter landed in the 'Ayn Qinya position held by Lahd's militia. Meanwhile, two helicopters flew over the area and dropped heat bombs.

At 0830, 17 civilian vehicles belonging to the Israeli intelligence service, including two cars belonging to the operations room, advanced in this direction. An hour later a Lahd militia force consisting of five vehicles supported by approximately 50 personnel proceeded to the same area. In another twenty minutes another Israeli helicopter landed in the 'Ayn Qinya position and two cars of Israeli commanders proceeded toward the position.

At 1050 Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over areas in the south and the mountains.

In another development, intermittent clashes with automatic weapons and rockets are taking place between the positions held by the Popular Liberation Army—Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd forces and Lahd's militiamen.

At 1000 this morning, Israeli warplanes staged mock raids over Sidon and the camps and met with antiaircraft fire.

Lebanese Forces Criticized Over Withdrawal

NC2811145090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces are playing for time and are betting on regional and international changes that could serve their ultimate interests. This stand raises a big political and security question mark. Certain sources caution against the Lebanese Forces' procrastination over their withdrawal from al-Asgrafiyah.

Meanwhile, other sources believe that the Lebanese Forces are slowly undermining the Greater Beirut Plan as a prelude for a reconsideration of the al-Ta'if accord to suit the whims of those who are working against national Lebanese interests.

Ja'ja' Discusses Force Withdrawal, New Government

NC2811180690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has stressed that the Greater Beirut Plan will be implemented within the next few days.

In an interview to be published tomorrow by AL-LIWA', he said that there are no local or foreign circumstances which prevent its implementation. He underlined the Lebanese Forces' commitment to the firm promise to withdraw its weapons and all fighters from the Beirut area, adding that this is what is in fact happening.

Regarding some quarters' accusations that the Lebanese Forces is dragging its feet in withdrawing, the Lebanese Forces commander said: Some of these have bad intentions, others are shortsighted, and others are ignorant of military affairs, such as the time needed to withdraw quantities of weapons and ammunition like those being withdrawn from Beirut today. He added: We could have withdrawn two ammunition trucks and three or four military vehicles and claimed, like others have done, that we have withdrawn from Beirut. But our serious commitment to the establishment of a Greater Beirut was the primary motive for withdrawing all the heavy and medium weapons.

Ja'ja' went on to say: We would have said no if we did not want [Greater] Beirut; when we say no it means no and when we say yes it means yes. We have said yes to Beirut and the plan will be implemented, even though we know that several of the other forces have not carried out a serious withdrawal like we are doing. Despite all this, we will continue to evacuate weapons and gunmen from Beirut.

Regarding some parties' linkage between the delay in and slowness of the withdrawal and the possibility of regional changes, Dr. Ja'ja' ridiculed this idea and said: What is going to happen if the withdrawal ends today, tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow? What is going to happen tomorrow or the day after? These are mere dreams and speculations made by some out of ignorance and by others out of malice. He stressed that there is no link between the implementation of the Greater Beirut Plan on the one hand and [changing] the government and the appointment [of deputies] on the other. He said: This plan stands by itself and is a phase in a long process. Understanding has been reached on it as such. Hence, its implementation is not linked to any other issue. He stressed that those who are attacking or waging a venomous media campaign against the Lebanese Forces are those harmed by the Lebanese Forces' withdrawal from Beirut and from the serious achievement of Greater Beirut, because they either want to achieve a superficial Greater Beirut or not to achieve it at all.

The Lebanese Forces commander stressed that a government change has become necessary for several reasons and that there is an agreement in principle to form a new government. He added that the discussions have not yet touched on the details. He said that the present government is not the national accord government approved by the al-Ta'if accord. It was formed on the basis of the old formula, and this government should have resigned immediately after the Chamber of Deputies approved the new constitution so that a new government could be formed on the basis of the new constituion. Exceptional circumstances at that time prevented the government from resigning and the formation of a new one, but there are no reasons now preventing this from happening.

Regarding the possibility of a war in the Gulf, Dr. Ja'ja' stressed that this war would have very dangerous repurcussions for all the Arabs. He said that all Arabs would be the losers in this war whose grave consequences would affect a number of countries and regimes, and could even lead to geographical changes in the Middle East. He added that this is why the Arabs must deal more seriously and responsibly with the Gulf crisis.

Dialogue Begins With PLO To Regulate Relations

NC2911101690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] This morning Prime Minister al-Huss received a PLO delegation on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. They reviewed the situation in occupied Palestine and in Lebanon.

After the meeting, the PLO delegation released a statement in which it underlined Prime Minister al-Huss' solidarity with the Palestinian people's valiant intifadah and their continued struggle to gain the right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their own independent state. The statement emphasized Lebanon's firm stand and support for the Palestinian people's rights.

The delegation also expressed its satisfaction that a dialogue has begun between the PLO and the ministerial committee of Ministers Muhsin Dallul and Nazih al-Bizri, considering this dialogue as a basic step on the path to regulating Palestinian-Lebanese relations. The delegation declared its support for the [Lebanese] national accord process and the PLO's readiness to aid the legitimate authority in its task.

Al-Hirawi Receives U.S. Ambassador's Credentials

NC2911103390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Ryan Crocker, the new U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, has presented his credentials to President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

This morning Crocker called on Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss, in his capacity as foreign minister, and presented him with a copy of his credentials. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammas and U.S. Embassy Counselor Gabi 'Akar.

Britian Says Embassy Not To Resume Activity

NC2811185990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] British Ambassador to Lebanon David Tathan met with Information Ministry Director General Dr. Ayyub Humayyid today. Following the meeting, the ambassador said that the Greater Beirut Plan will be implemented before the end of this week. He added: Even if the Greater Beirut Plan is implemented, we have no intention of resuming the activity of the British Embassy in Beirut for the time being.

Agreement Reached With UK on Restoring Ties

JN2811164890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1618 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] An agreement has been reached between the Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Kingdom to restore diplomatic relations with immediate effect. The heads of the interests sections in Damascus and London will be charges d'affaires until ambassadors are exchanged as soon as possible.

The Syrian side received the following from the British side:

1. Britain, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, pledges to intensify its efforts to help find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict as soon as Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, and reaffirms its conviction that an international conference under UN auspices will play a role in realizing a comprehensive settlement of this conflict.

2. Britain regards the Israeli occupation of the Golan, the West Bank, Gaza, east Jerusalem, and southern Lebanon as illegal and unacceptable.

3. Britain reaffirms its support for the al-Ta'if agreement on Lebanon and appreciates Syria's commitment to helping the Lebanese Government implement this agreement.

4. The British Government pledges to play a positive role in developing and strengthening relations between Syria and the EC states, now that it has given up its reservations in this regard.

Within the context of the affirmations exchanged between the two sides, the Syrian side has made it clear to the British side that, while rejecting acts of international terrorism, and while it will carry out measures against those who commit such acts provided there is convincing evidence against them, Syria makes a distinction between terrorism and national struggle and does not consider resistance to the Israeli occupation an act of terrorism.

AL-THAWRAH Comments

JN2911083990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has discussed in one of its editorials the resumption of ties between Syria and Britain. The paper affirmed that the timing of the resumption of these ties after a break of four years indicates the importance that both sides attach to holding dialogue over the sensitive and dangerous developments in the Arab region, their explosive repercussions, and employing the positive aspects of these new positions in the service of a solution that guarantees the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

AL-THAWRAH affirms in its comment that the decision to restore ties indicates that a new page in the history of relations between the two countries will be started on clear bases, not only in the field of bilateral relations but in various fields, specifically issues connected with international terrorism and distinguishing it from struggle, and in particular resisting the Israeli occupation.

The newspaper says that by resuming diplomatic relations with Britain, Syria proves to the whole world that its hand is extended and arms are open for establishing relations with all countries, and for setting the bases of cooperation with them in accordance with UN legitimacy and the principles of international law.

NPF Holds Meeting Under President Al-Asad

JN2711141090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] held a meeting under President Hafiz al-Asad at noon today.

Al-Ahmar Receives Cypriot Parliament President

JN2711212890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received this morning Dr. Vassos Lissaridhis, president of the Unified Democratic Union of Cyprus/Socialist Party (EDEK) and of the Cypriot House of Representatives.

They discussed the advanced relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Cypriot Socialist Party. They also discussed Arab and international developments and events, especially in the Gulf.

Iraqi People Urged to 'Put End to Gamble'

JN2811065690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the Security Council five permanent member states have reportedly reached a draft resolution sanctioning the use of force against Iraq if it fails to pull out of Kuwait. The Council is expected to hold an extraordinary session tomorrow, Thursday, to approve the draft resolution, which gives Iraq a limited additional period of time to comply with the international will. If approved, the resolution will be the second of its kind in the history of the United Nations. The first resolution sanctioning the use of force was passed during the Korean war.

The question that jumps to mind is: Why are the Iraqi officials pushing the crisis toward explosion while they can defuse the tension? And why do the Iraqi officials insist on placing themselves and the unwilling Iraqi people at a confrontation with world unanimity?

If the standards of gain and loss are to be considered, Iraq's loss, even under the current circumstances, far surpasses the gain it made through its invasion of Kuwait. Indeed, Iraq, did not make any gains. Both Iraq and Kuwait have been

losers. Iraq is besieged, and its preparedness for war has fatigued its economy. Kuwait, for its part, has turned from a rich productive country to a ghost country. The current loss, however, is nothing compared to the expected loss if war breaks out. This war will consume everything, and will leave Iraq and the region prey to destruction, devastation, and suffering over tens of years.

If, on the other hand, the pan-Arab standards—behind which Iraq's rulers are hiding—are to be considered, the loss will be even greater. The Gulf region, which was enjoying tranquility, peace, and stability, has become a real battlefield because of the intensive foreign presence. The inherited Arab traditions, which prohibit fighting between brothers and violating the brother's land and house, have been stepped on.

As regards the world, it is now united against Iraq. And instead of Israel alone being in the dock, Iraq placed itself in the dock, and it is being referred to as the aggressor. The Gulf crisis has taken all the limelight and pushed the intifadah to the back seat. Israel used the invasion to step up its oppressive practices against the Palestinian people and speed up its plan to create Greater Israel. So, what do the Iraqi officials expect from the Arabs and the world?

The Arabs have condemned the invasion and called on Iraq to withdraw its forces and restore the legitimate Kuwaiti government. Had they done otherwise, they would have betrayed Arab principles, conventions, and traditions; disavowed their past, present and future; and entrenched the law of the jungle in inter-Arab relations. The Iraqi invasion can by no means be justified. It is a painful stab to efforts aimed at achieving Arab solidarity and mobilizing Arab resources against Israel.

As far as the world is concerned, it said its word through 10 Security Council resolutions. We cannot think of a single foreign country that found an excuse for Iraq in its occupation of Kuwait.

Syria has repeatedly sounded the alarm, warned the Iraqi officials through its President al-Asad against proceeding with their adventurism, and called on them to spare our people in Iraq disasters and loss. Syria exerted rapid efforts to adopt a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, and President al-Asad urged U.S. President Bush to pursue peaceful efforts. But unilateral peace efforts lose all meaning if not met with genuine peaceful response from Iraq's rulers. These rulers are still closing their ears to all calls and refusing to listen to the voice of conscience, reason, and duty. The Arabs have appealed to them, but they failed to respond; the world community has appealed to them, and they failed to respond; and the people of Iraq have appealed to them, and they failed to respond. The crisis, gentlemen, is getting more serious and volatile, and it is high time the Iraqi people imposed their word and put an end to the gamble being waged in their name.

Kuwaiti Envoy Appeals to Jordanian Palestinians

JN2211183890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1732 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpts] We will now listen to an interview with Shaykh Nasir al-Sabah, envoy of the Kuwaiti Government to Damascus, where he has met with Syrian officials, particularly with President Hafiz al-Asad. After the meeting, Louis Faris conducted the following interview with the Kuwaiti official.

[Begin recording] [Faris] What are at present the most important steps and moves the legitimate Kuwaiti authorities are carrying out, and what is your evaluation of the various contacts and political efforts under way to settle the Gulf crisis?

[Al-Sabah] The most important task facing the legitimate Kuwaiti Government is to preserve the international consensus embodied in Arab League and UN Security Council resolutions. There have been many resolutions; so far there have been 10 resolutions. At present, the preservation of this international accord on the matter of the unjust Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is in itself a gain. However, there have been other steps with those of our Arab brothers who reacted incomprehensibly. Thanks to God, some positive signs now have emerged. For example, we now see that Mauritania is taking a more positive stance, and I feel that there are other Arab countries that have begun to understand the situation better than before and have started to extricate themselves from the hegemony of Iraq and its supporters. [passage omitted]

[Faris] You have mentioned that a change has taken place in the policies of some Arab countries that used to support the Iraqi invasion. Tell me exactly what you are speaking of.

[Al-Sabah] We received very encouraging reports from a broad sector of our Palestinian brothers in Jordan. They have begun to realize the injustice that has been done to their Kuwaiti brothers. There is now a clear realization of this, particularly after several of our Palestinian brothers returned to Amman and briefed their brothers about the tragedy brought about by the Iraqi regime in Kuwait. The people there began to wonder whether the first step to liberate Palestine was to destroy the Palestinian identity which supports the intifadah. [passage omitted]

I would like to tell this broad sector in Jordan: You have brothers, support them. Egypt fought Israel and lost Sinai. Our Syrian brothers fought and lost the Golan. Even Lebanon has lost part of southern Lebanon. What has Jordan lost? Jordan thrives on the tragedies of our Palestinian brothers. Please, please support right so that we can together defend our cause. Thank you. [end recording]

Reportage on Al-Asad Visit to Switzerland

WA2811171690

For Damascus reportage on the visit by President Hafiz al-Asad to Geneva, Switzerland, including reports on his talks with President George Bush and top Swiss officials, please see the Switzerland section of the 26 November West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Closing of Meli Shura

LD2811194790 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Speech by President Najibullah at closing session of Meli Shura in Kabul on 28 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Dear members of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan: In line with Article 86 of the Constitution today, the last day of the first week of the month of Qaws [starting 22 Nov] the fifth session of the Meli Shura of our country is ending. The Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan ends its fifth regular session at a time when the pulse of incidents and events in Afghanistan is beating sharply. The fifth session of the Meli Shura has undoubtedly fulfilled its role in speeding up the implementation of national reconciliation, and has made relevent decisions on the most important issues related to the social, economic, and political fields of the country. Unfortunately, esteemed Abdul Ghafur, senator of Parvan Province, and esteemed Ghulam Muhammad Mahdizada, senator from Konduz Province, died during this session. Once again I remember their endeavors in the service of the people of Afghanistan and their work for the implementation of national reconciliation, and I express condolence to their families and the members of the Meli Shura. We ask God to make their souls happy and bestow on their families the best reward.

Esteemed deputies and senators, the Wolasi Jerga's 28 general sessions and the 37 general sessions of the senate have done good work. The Wolasi Jerga of the Republic of Afghanistan, in two general sessions, heard the report of esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, the prime minister, on carrying out the policy of government, and a series of proposals presented during the debate on the vote of confidence was approved. This, on the one hand, has helped the enhancement of the process of democracy in the country and, on the other hand, has daily enhanced the sense of reponsibility among members of the cabinet toward the nation's representatives. Similarly, various Meli Shura commissions took various topics under consideration. We hope that the relations of the parliament of the country with the executive position of the government will acquire mutually fruitful characteristics, and this hope has been realized. While taking various issues under consideration, the commissions have offered tangible aid to the responsible officials of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan to resolve several problems facing it.

I think the existence of such mutual relations between the parliament and the government on the one hand enhances harmony and understanding and, on the other, ensures the methods and possibilities for sensible solution of those problems. The Parliament of the Republic of Afghanistan has approved nine statutes and has amended 15 statutes in line with the development of the situation in the republic. The law of municipalities is one of them; this is an important step along the path of strengthening democracy's base in the country, and is another opportunity for the people to be able to freely take part in the socio-economic life of country and elect their representatives for municipal positions in the capital and the provinces. Also, the approval of the government corporations law, political parties law, Meli Shura law, and the law on opinion seeking and referral to public opinion helps in the further consolidation of the legality in the country.

A number of esteemed deputies and senators recently paid a visit to the city's security outposts and met the defenders of the country and the guarantors of the city's security. This act of some esteemed deputies and senators of the Meli Shura wins our approval. We are fully confident that the officers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, who carry out their duty to the homeland in the most difficult conditions of climate and environments, will, through sensing the support of the representatives of the people of Afghanistan, discharge their duties for the defense of the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of the country with high combat preparation, and prevent the subversive activities of the extremists who act under foreign instructions.

Esteemed delegates and senators, as you know I recently met a number of compatriots and directly exchanged with them views about the most important political, economic, and social issues. Some of those I met put forward noteworthy views. The result of these meetings shows that the views, opinions, suggestions, and instructions of the people are a truly valuable treasure. The views, opinions, and suggestions of the people should truly be respected. Since we judge as beneficial these meetings and, views and suggestions for finding a solution to the problems, we shall continue such meetings. At the same time we deem them necessary for the strengthening and advancement of democracy and the free voicing of the people's views.

I would like to point out that some views of our compatriots concerning the enhancement of your role—as representatives of the people—in the solution of problems have been justifiable and correct, and I do not want to hide from you that some of their views have been critical. That is, the opportunities and all the possibilities that you have at your disposal in the localities for contacts with the people and even with the opposition commanders, have not yet been fully utilized. This indicates the people's trust and thus indicates the expectations that your constituents and the people of Afghanistan have in the parliament and their representatives. The views and proposals of various strata of society, which are reflected in these meetings, and its process is continuing, will help the Republic of Afghanistan to adopt measures and policies in the social, political, economic, and military fields.

I would like to state from this prestigeous forum of the people that the Republic of Afghanistan is resolutely determined to respond to the demands and needs of the people to the extent allowed by our possibilities. The most important matter that should be jointly atttended to is to seek practical ways of ending the war and maintaining peace in the country. As you compatriots are aware, the Republic of Afghanistan has made and is making all-sided efforts toward ending the war and maintaining peace in the country. While we not only deem necessary the role and part of every patriotic Afghan, including the esteemed delegates and senators of the parliament of the republic in solving this all-embracing problem, we in practice support every initiative and effort that would lead to peace. Peace is an indispensable factor, and all patriotic persons of this land, wherever in the country or the world they may be, who embark on efforts toward bringing about peace will be assisted, supported and backed by the Republic of Afghanistan.

Respected friends, you know that the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan is making all-round efforts toward maintaining peace through inter-Afghan negotiations. In this way, relying on Almighty God, steps have been taken and we have the hope that, God willing, the people of Afghanistan will succeed in achieving a peaceful life in the country. [applause] For ending the war and maintaining peace in the country, as we have said several times, the essential element consists of the people of Afghanistan themselves. Whatever the extent they depend on foreign factors, the positions of various circles in connection with the political solution of the question of Afghanistan are coming closer to each other. The resolution of the 45th Session of the UN General Assembly once again called on all sides involved in the conflict in Afghanistan to seek and encourage a political solution. The Soviet Union and the United States agree on ending the war in Afghanistan and solving the country's problems through peaceful and political means, and have accepted in principle the political solution of the question of Afghanistan, with the participation of all Afghan political forces. The only element which still hopes for military pressure and victory for the extremists by way of armed conflict is the interference of Pakistani militarists. During recent months you witnessed the warmongering measures of the extremists who attempted to flex their muscles for a new military challenge. This time, too, the people of Kabul City suffered loss of life and material as a result of their missile attacks and explosions. The armed forces of the country and the patriotic defenders of Kabul City, through displaying courage and manhood, thwarted the extremists subversion and prevented the execution of plans by the extremists around Kabul. Consistent defense against attacks by extremists in Kabul City and other cities and provinces of Afghanistan shows that attempts through military pressure, far from solving anything, only serve to further expose the essence of the extremists' measures as tools in the hands of others.

Since the people of Afghanistan, the peace-loving circles of the region and the world, and finally the United Nations—as a collective will of all the countries of the world—welcome a political solution of the Afghan question, efforts for exerting military pressure in accordance with the plans of the Pakistani militarists mean openly and specifically serving aliens who are determined to destroy our homeland and smash our nation. As far as the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, while maintaining reliable defence of the homeland and the territorial integrity and independence of the country, we will continue our path toward maintaining the national unity of the people of Afghanistan and maintaining peace. In this regard I would like to explain to you in brief the results of my recent visit to Switzerland.

The main aim of our visit to Switzerland was to hold talks with a number of personalities and activists of the opposition groups and hold meetings with the Swiss Government authorities and the UN organizations in that country. Our meetings and talks with the personalities and activists of the opposition groups were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, and it was decided that the process of such meetings for the purpose of a political solution of the Afghan dispute through intra-Afghan talks should continue. I am satisfied with the results of the meetings and talks with the personalities and activists of the opposition groups, and consider, them a good foundation for taking future steps toward ending the war and maintaining peace in the country. If some extremist circles are stressing a military solution and creating obstacles in the way of every kind of political solution and of talks among the Afghans, considerable opposition forces also exist who prefer the way of a political solution. However, with hope and confidence we will continue the process that has begun and will let you, the representatives of the nation, and all the people of the country know of the results from time to time.

Meetings and talks were also held with personalities of the Government and Parliament of Switzerland, authorities of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the director of the European Section of the United Nations and Sadroddin Agha Khan, the organizer of the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations for Afghanistan. In the course of all these meetings and talks, support was expressed for realizing the policy of national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

Esteemed friends, allow me, in accordance with Article 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, to declare the conclusion of the fifth session of the Meli Shura of the country, and wish each one of you health and well-being. I hope the members of Parliament of Afghanistan will, in the course of their vacation and their visits to their constituents, render effective work for ending the war and maintaining peace in their localities, and I wish you success in your assignments.

Success comes from God. [applause]

Roundup of Military Successes 21-27 Nov

LD2911072690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0422 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Kabul, Nov 28, BAKHTAR—During the past week (November 21-27, 1990) the extremists fired 6 ground to ground rockets on the residential quarters of the capital as a result of which 4 civilians including children were killed and 14 others wounded, reported a concerned military source to BAKHTAR today.

Also, the City of Ghazni came under the extremist rocket attacks. A mosque, a takiya and 5 private houses damaged.

The congregational mosque of Aibak, center of Samangan Province sustained remarkable damage by a rocket fired by the war mongers too, the source added.

Becoming aware of the gains of the national reconciliation policy, 67 refugee families composed of 360 members returned from the alien lands to their homes in the Laghman, Konduz, Kabol, Baghlan, Herat and other provinces during that period.

The sources said that two groups of 1,150 (450 armed and 700 unarmed) men joined the process of the national reconciliation policy in the Ghowr and Balkh Provinces.

Organs of the Ministry of State Security purchased 17 cluster and Strella-2 type rockets, 74 mortar shells and 5 BM-1 from the extremists in Nangarhar and Ghazni Provinces.

During the mopping up operations of the Armed Forces carried out in Nangarhar, Zabol, Qandahar, Vardak, Ghowr and other provinces, 450 extremists were cleared and 400 others wounded.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemies including 400 cannon shells, 2,000 mortar shells, 30 anti-tank shells, 19 mortars, 190 cases of bullets, 400 rockets of different make, 35 anti-personnel mines, 450 kg of explosives etc were seized and 8 wireless sets, 21 heavy machine-guns, 400 reactive shells, 350 cannon shells, 130 rockets, 15 positions, 25,000 bullets, 6 vehicles of munitions, and 180 Kalashnikovs were destroyed.

Clashes which took place between the Gulbuddin, Rabani, Muhammad Yunis Khalis, Sayyaf, Muhammad Nabi and others in the Kapisa, Laghman, Konduz, Jowzjan, Vardak and Ghowr provinces as well as other corners of the country about 100 extremists were killed and 70 others injured. Among those killed several extremist ringleaders are also included.

19 hectares of land cultivated with poppy seed win the Jowzjan Province was destroyed. Also, 36 kg of opium were seized and 16 narco-addicts were hospitalised in that province, during the said interval.

Notes number 1631-1640 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva Accords and resolutions of the 45th Session of the UN General Assembly were submitted to the office of the UN secretary general in Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP) during that period too.

Cluster Rockets Purchased From Opposition

LD2311154890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] As many as six cluster-type rockets have been purchased recently in province of Herat by organs of the Ministry of State Security from a ringleader of Gulbuddin's extremist group. BAKHTAR's Military Section reports that the rockets have been paid for in line with the agreement.

Bangladesh

Reportage on State of Emergency Continues

Situation Termed Peaceful

BK2811155390 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] A press note issued in Dhaka tonight said a curfew was imposed on the capital to protect the life and property of the people. The situation on the whole was peaceful throughout the country today. However, attempts to break the curfew by a number of people at some places were not successful in view of the lawful action taken by law enforcing agencies. Most of the students of the Dhaka University have left their residential hall. A few students who are to go a long way from the capital are yet to vacate. The press note adds the government seeks full cooperation of the people to help preserve law and order in the country.

Universities Closed One Month

BK2811163490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The government has announced the closure of all educational institutions in the capital, including Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Agriculture University, Chittagong University and all their hostels and residential halls for a month. The government proclaimed the order under powers conferred on it under the Educational Institutions Law and Order Ordinance 1990. Another official announcement says all educational institutions of Chittagong, Khulna, Khalispur, Daulatpur, Rajshahi, and Karatia Sadat University College in Tangail, including their hostels and residential halls, will remain closed for a month. Students in these cities and towns have been asked to vacate their hostels and residential halls immediately.

Opposition Says 50 Dead

BK2911063290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0601 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 29 (AFP)—Sporadic fighting continued here Thursday between security forces and anti-government demonstrators after earlier clashes in the Bangladesh capital and other parts of the country left at least 50 people dead, according to the opposition.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, leader of the opposition Awami League, said in a statement that 50 people were killed and hundreds more injured when troops opened fire to quell demonstrations on Wednesday following a declaration of a state of emergency late Tuesday by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Gunshots rang out again Thursday in Sukrapur, a densely populated residential district, as troops again opened fired on demonstrators, witnesses said.

Sheikh Hasina was among a number of leading opposition figures arrested in a police swoop just hours before the declaration and her statement was issued by party workers on her behalf.

The statement called on the public to intensify action to overthrow Mr. Ershad, 61, who took power in a bloodless coup in 1982.

The government has made no comment on reports of deaths during the demonstrations, the culmination of an opposition-led campaign to oust Mr. Ershad and call general elections which began on October 10.

India

Minister Says Use of Force in Gulf Opposed

BK2911100490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] India has called for an early convening of an international conference on West Asia to find a solution to the Palestinian problem. Addressing a function organized to mark the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people in New Delhi, the external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, regretted that resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement to solve the issue remain unimplemented because of the indifference of certain countries. He made it clear that there can be no durable peace in West Asia without a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem. For this, he said, Israel must vacate its illegal occupation and restore the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

On the Gulf situation, the minister said India is opposed to the use of force and acquisition of territory through military aggression.

Spokesman Denies Involvement in Bangladesh

BK2811161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] In Bangladesh, the Army was called out in the capital, Dhaka, after the crowd defied curfew and attacked police to protest the state of emergency. Troops in trucks and jeeps are patrolling the streets. Reports speak of clashes in the city. No newspapers appeared in Dhaka today, as the journalists in the country went on a strike in protest against the press censorship.

Meanwhile, India has emphatically denied any involvement in the current wave of protests in Bangladesh. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman has expressed the hope that normalcy will return there soon and that the democratic rights of the people restored as early as possible. He was replying to a newsman's query about the accusation of the Bangladesh president, General Ershad, that a foreign power is inspiring the opposition to indulge in politics of anarchy in his country.

Reports on Chinese Troop Intrusion Denied

BK2811161090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry today denied a newspaper report that Chinese troops have intruded into the Trishul sector in Ladakh. He told newsmen that the reports have no basis.

Pakistan Envoy Called on Harassment of Diplomats

BK2811162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] India has lodged a strong protest with Pakistan against the recent incidents of harassment of some family members of the Indian mission staff there. The Pakistan Government has been told that India views the incidents, which took place in Islamabad and Karachi, with great seriousness. India has drawn its attention to the Vienna convention under which the host government has to insure the safety and security of personnel of diplomatic missions.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen that the Pakistan ambassador, Mr. Abdul Sattar, was summoned to the Foreign Office on Monday to lodge the protest. The spokesman said that the Pakistan Government has promised to investigate the matter fully. He said India expects that necessary action will be taken to identify the culprits and to punish them and that due steps will be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

India's high commissioner to Islamabad, Mr. J.N. Dixit, who is currently in the capital for consultations called on the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar today. He briefed the prime minister on various issues concerning Indo-Pak relations.

Iraq Gives Clearance To Indian Cargo Ship

BK2911141290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The Indian cargo ship, Vishwa Siddhi, is expected to set sail for home on Saturday [1 December] from the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr. The ship docked at the Iraqi port on the 26th of September carrying over 9,200 tons of foodstuffs and medicines. By November 3d, most of its cargo had been unloaded, and the unloading operation of the remaining cargo is in its final stage. The foodstuffs will be distributed among non-Iraqis by the Indian mission officials in Iraq as permitted by the UN Sanctions Committee. All necessary clearances for its sailing have been obtained from the Iraqi authorities in this regard.

Third Generation Antitank Missile Tested

BK2911092490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The country's first indigenous third generation antitank missile, Nag, was successfully flight tested this morning. The missile was test fired from the interim missile test range at Chandipur in Orissa. According to the defense scientists, the missile was manoeuvred successfully during its controlled flight path. Further test of the missile will be conducted before it is inducted into the service.

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent reports that successful test flights of the long range artillery rocket (Pinaca) was carried out from the same test range last month. The Nag missiles are likely to be inducted in the weapon system by early 1994.

Deputy Ministers Given Additional Portfolios

BK2811164390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Digvijay Singh, deputy minister in the Ministry of Finance will also hold charge of deputy minister in the Ministry of External Affairs. According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] communique issued in New Delhi today, Mr. Dasain Chaudhary, deputy minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, will also hold the charge of deputy minister in the Industry Ministry.

BJP Demands Deployment of Army in Punjab

BK2911134290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, Mr. Krishan Lal Sharma, has demanded immediate deployment of the Army in Punjab to deal with the deteriorating law and order situation. In a statement in New Delhi today, he urged the prime minister to spell out the government's action plan to restore the confidence of the people in the state.

'Terrorists' Kill Four Soldiers in Punjab 27 Nov

BK2811053990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead four jawans [soldiers] manning the defense post at Dubli Village in Amritsar District yesterday evening. In another incident, one terrorist was killed in an encounter with the police near Hoshiarpur late last night.

Nine Killed, 10 Injured in Punjab Violence

BK2911040890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, one terrorist and one policeman are among nine persons killed and 10 injured in separate incidents since yesterday evening. According to an official spokesman, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in a locality of Amritsar City killing six persons and injuring seven last night.

Meanwhile, curfew in 1-4 Police Divisions of Jullundur City continues in view of the persistent tension in the area.

'Thousands' of Hindus Flee Punjab Border Areas

BK2811142690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1346 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Amritsar, India, Nov 28 (AFP)—Thousands of Hindus have fled border towns in India's Punjab state following a recent spurt in mass killings by Sikh separatists, witnesses and refugees here said Wednesday.

About 3,000 people arrived in this city Tuesday in trucks from Bikhiwind, a border town some 55 kilometers (35 miles) away and similar convoys were reported headed out of the towns of Patti, Jhabbal and Khemkaran.

The leaders of the refugees from Bikhiwind said they had fled after reading "Hindus Quit" ultimatums pasted up in public places.

The ultimatums warned all Hindus to "vacate the town" by the end of the month, they said, adding that seven Hindus from Bikhiwind had been kidnapped, tortured and killed.

There was no independent confirmation of the killings.

Hindus in Bikhiwind are estimated to number some 9,000 out of a total population of 25,000.

The refugees declined to return home after assurances were given by officials here promising full protection and security reinforcements in the border regions by the end of the week.

Refugee leaders, who said they were afraid to give their names, said other Hindus, most of them shopkeepers, businessmen and government servants, had also fled to escape the escalating violence.

Mass killings by Sikh militants in the past two weeks have included the gunning down of 11 Hindus working for a Hindu-revivalist organization November 17, the killing of another 13 in a random strike November 20 and the slaughter of 25 bus passengers two days later.

New Chief of Sikh Temple Committee Elected

BK2811165790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The senior leader of the Akali Dal-Badal, Mr. Baldev Singh Sibia, was today unanimously elected president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parabandhak [Sikh temple management] Committee [SGPC] for a one-year term. At a meeting of the SGPC in Amrtisar, the outgoing president, Mr. G.S. Tohra, presented to the house a list of names of the presidents, office-bearers and 11-member executive which was adopted unanimously. Mr. Tohra has been president for 17 years since January 1973.

In Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh, the bundh [strike] call given by the All India Sikh Students Federation for today evoked mixed response. According to an official spokesman, the bus services all over Punjab and Chandigarh were badly affected; 80-90 percent shops and business establishments remained closed in the districts of Bhatinda, Faridkot, Ropar, Jullundur, Ludhiana and Amritsar. The rail traffic and the functioning of government offices and essential services were not affected. The call for the bundh was given as a protest against the banning of Anandpur Saheb meeting and the arrest of Akali leaders last week.

Congress-I Not Against Support Parties

BK2911134490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The Congress-I is not against supporting parties like Kerala Congress and Muslim League joining the union Council of Ministers. Refuting reports appearing in a section of the press in this regard, the chief whip of the party in the Lok Sabha, Professor P.J. Kurian, said in a statement in New Delhi that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi had made the Congress-I stand clear to the prime minister when the matter was referred to him.

Security Forces Launch Action in Assam

BK2811165890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Security forces have swung into action against the United Liberation Front of Assam—ULFA—militants, following imposition of president's rule in the state late last night. The whole of Assam has been declared a disturbed area and the ULFA and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland have been declared unlawful. The administration has requisitioned the help of the Army in curbing the activities of ULFA and according to reports reaching New Delhi it is engaged with the militants in two camps. Thirty-six ULFA militants have been apprehended so far. The governor, Mr. D.D. Thakur, reviewed the law and order situation with the chief secretary and senior officials in Guwahati this morning. He also had a meeting with his two newly appointed advisers, Mr. I.P. Gupta and Mr. P.P. Srivastav.

The official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that the decision to impose president's rule in Assam and keep the assembly under suspended animation was taken after consideration after detailed reports from the governor by the Union government. It has been stated that the law and order has deteriorated due to ULFA actitivies. The spokesman said they are also known to have been running at least 40 training camps in collaboration with the Burmese and Naga rebels. The spokesman said a general feeling is that the state government was not willing to take effective action against ULFA cadres. No single case of ULFA killings has been fully investigated by the police.

Many political parties and leaders have represented that in the present atmosphere, elections to the state assembly will be a farcical exercise. The spokesman said even the previous central government had taken up the issue and the then home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, had pointed out to the state government about the deterioration in the law and order. The former chief minister, Mr. P.K. Mahanta, was requested by the Home Ministry to declare Upper Assam as a disturbed area earlier this year. But after initially agreeing, he subsequently said the state cabinet was not willing for it.

The Congress-I and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] have reacted positively, while the constituents of the National Front and left parties have criticized the president's rule in the state. Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mahanta described the central decision as betrayal of democracy. He said the step was uncalled for and denied that any of his ministers had any links with ULFA.

The Janata Dal-S [Socialist] general secretary, Mr. Om Prakash Chautala, said government was left with no alternative under the prevailing circumstances. He said elections in the state will be held as soon as the atmosphere becomes conducive for this.

Opposing the move, the Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said any decision on Assam should have been taken after consulting opposition parties and by evolving a national consensus. Alleging that the decision has been guided by political expediency, he said placing Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir under central rule has not improved law and order situation in the two states.

Blaming the AGP [Asom Gana Parishad] government for inaction to deal with the secessionist violence created by ULFA, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, denied that his party was connected with the decision in any manner.

The BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, said imposition of president's rule in Assam was the only alternative available under the prevailing law and order situation.

The former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, termed the step as undemocratic.

The National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, said it is a clear assault on democracy and typical of the Congress-I politics.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India - Marxist] politburo has said the center's decision is a wrong step and will not help restore normalcy in the state.

In a statement, the CPI said imposition of president's rule in Assam will aggravate law and order situation and demanded holding of elections to the assembly as per schedule.

The Insaf party president, Syed Shahabuddin, said it was an essential step toward creating conditions for a free and fair poll in the state.

The All Assam Minority Students Union welcoming the decision hoped that all illegally deleted names of bonafide residents from the voters list will be included.

ULFA 'Extremists' Apprehended in Assam

BK2911035490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] In Assam, 36 ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] extremists have been apprehended by the security forces. A large quantity of arms and ammunition and unlawful documents were also seized. The security forces have destroyed many hideouts of the ULFA. Official sources in Guwahati said that the situation in the state is under control but strict vigil is being maintained. The governor, Mr. D.D. Thakur, accompanied by his two advisers left Guwahati this morning for Upper Assam areas to have an on-the-spot study Of the situation there. The governor is scheduled to visit the ULFA-infested areas.

Iran

Khamene'i Comments on Hostility Toward U.S.

LD2811143690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Speech by 'Ali Hoseyni Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to "martyrs' families, Navy personnel, and members of the sisters' Basij" at the Hoseyniyeh-e Imam Khomeyni Mosque in Tehran on 28 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] A group of brothers, personnel of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], are present among the audience. Their efforts of the past several years—be it during the early days of the war, in the latter days of the war, or between these two periods—were valuable, significant, and courageous. They must note that the sea is a sensitive place. The Persian Gulf is an important region. The enemies are staring at this region with their covetous eyes. Fleets and military forces have come from thousands of kilometers away to safeguard their illegitimate and unjustified interests, and they will continue coming and staying. This is a threat to this region's nations and countries, and it is particularly a threat to the Islamic Republic. They [Navy personnel] must be alert.

The issue of our Navy is important, both the Navy of the Armed Forces and the Navy of the Guards Corps. These two should perform this grave task side by side and with different duties. We hope they will be fully successful, God willing. [passage omitted]

These days we are facing a fundamental and crucial problem at the global level. All the strata of the people, be they civilian or Army personnel, employees of the state or the self-employed, urban or rural people, young or old, should be vigilant in the face of this. The more time passes, the more global arrogance feels that the system of the Islamic Republic is standing firm and decisive against their illegal and illegitimate interests and against instances of aggression, and is challenging their aggression-seeking and greedy intentions. They have understood this very well.

Perhaps for a time they were thinking that after the demise of our great imam, may God be satisfied with his deeds, the flames of pursuing aspirations in the Islamic Republic might subside, calm down, or extinguish. They thought that after the demise of the imam, peace be upon him, everything would gradually end; that is, they though the revolutionary sentiments, selfless emotions, and the people's hostility against the agents of tyranny, arrogance, and exploitation in the world would end. They expected this but realized their expectations did not come true. As time passes, this people's commitment to the line drawn by our deceased leader and great teacher is not diminishing [passage omitted] This was better understood in the wake of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. They saw that despite the fact that Iraq has launched aggression against Kuwait and the nation of Iran has condemned aggression in whatever form—and this is what the government and the nation have said from the beginning—nevertheless this did not prevent our people and officials from criticizing the United States' aggressive and unjust intervention.

They thought that after witnessing Iraqi aggression against Kuwait we would forget the United States, not realizing that our nation is nurtured by the revolution and the imam. Our responsible officials are disciples of the imam. Is it possible they might forget hostilities of arrogance, led by the United States? Is it possible they might forget America's greed, covetous deeds, and overt and covert acts of aggression? They realized that the hostility of the nation of Iran against the enemies of Islam is unending.

They realized that the Iranian nation's hostility towards Islam's enemies led by the U.S. regime is unending. They realized that the Iranian nation is standing steadfast in defense of Islam, revolutionary Islam, the pure Islam of the holy Muhammad [chantings: salutes to Muhammad]—may God's peace and benedictions be upon him and his companions. They realized that the government, nation, and officials are not prone to wheeling and dealing and compromise. Now that they have understood all these things they have begun their wickedness from every direction. Not that they had put a stop to these; they just intensified them. They filled the world's mouthpieces with propaganda against the Islamic system just as they always have; just as in the times of his exalted imam and in the interlude between the demise of his exalted imam and today. This is how things are nowadays.

The nation of Iran should be alert nowadays, because the enemy is thinking of being hostile and delivering blows to the revolution and Islam under different guises; including, for instance, under the guise of human rights. That the likes of America should be defending human rights is both tragic and comic for the meek of this world. The original violators of human rights are the ones that claim to care about human rights! It is laughable and ironic, for instance, that those who claim to be caring for human rights are the same people from whose paws drip the blood of the people of Palestine.

Now, apart from the destruction they brought on nations in the past—in the East, the West, the whole world, in Africa and Asia—killing them and belittling human rights; regardless of this, even right now, the Zionist regime, backed by America and its allies, is placing the Palestinian people under the worst and most dreadful pressure and torture. The United States has the blood of the people and martyrs of Palestine on its hands, on the hands of the leaders of America's regime. It is such people that talk about human rights. Is this not a joke? Is it not absurd? Yet it also makes one feel like crying. Is it not a tragedy that human values and principles should be manipulated in this way by these wicked politicians?

They accuse Islamic Iran of violating human rights, whereas Islam is the greatest guarantor of human rights. Why do we, as a nation, defend the nation of Palestine? Why do we, as a revolutionary state, defend defenseless nations? What links do we have with the people of South Africa? We [defend] these defenseless people who, in various parts of the world, do not dare to observe their Islamic principles because of the domination of sinister governments that are democratic in appearance but fascist in nature and action. You saw how in Britain and in France they do not allow Muslim girls to wear headscarves. The authorities publicly beat a Muslim in America on the grounds that he was praying at the airport. Why do we defend the meek? Why do we feel that it is our duty to rush to the help of defenseless persons who may raise a voice and beg for help from somewhere or other, and why do we try to help them in any way possible or at least try to echo their cries? Why? Because Islam instructs us to safeguard the rights of people. It is you—leaders of oppression and arrogance—who have violated human rights. It is you who have taken as a joke the United Nations, the Commission for Human Rights, and humanitarian values, and want only to manipulate them.

The value of human beings and the value of human rights mean so much to us that for their sake we were prepared to confront all the arrogant powers of the world. The servants of America and other arrogant powers ruled this country for many years and killed people by the hundreds and thousands in these streets, spilling their blood on the ground. And similar things are being perpetrated today by the rest of America's servants, where their prisons are full of defenseless people. No one raises a voice in international forums. If you support human rights, then why do you not protest reactionary, oppressive, despotic, and horrid regimes that have never had any inkling of democracy and in whose countries no one has even once seen a ballot box?

Why are you only protesting against the Islamic Republic, which is the symbol of the people's involvement in all affairs and consecutive free elections on various occasions, where the people speak whatever their hearts wish in the streets and bazaars and in public thoroughfares? You are not a supporter of human rights. You are in favor of impiety. You are in favor of maintaining your domination over other countries and nations. You are disappointed with the ousting of your sinister hand from the vast, wealthy country of Iran and the threat against your interests in other countries. You are blood enemies of the revolution. This revolution eliminated your servants here. You bear a grudge against the revolution, and the human rights [issue] is only an excuse. What do you understand about human beings and their rights?

The Iranian nation should vigilantly understand and identify this extensive plot of arrogance and the enemies of Islam and the revolution, which thanks be to God the decisive majority of this country understands and identifies. O my dear brothers and sisters all over the country, you should know today that the United States, its friends, hirelings, and allies are waiting for an opportunity to take their revenge on the revolution. They are waiting for an opportunity to avenge [the overthrow of] the hated [Shah] Mohammad Reza, his tyrannic dynasty, and the SAVAK [secret police] members of his reign by our revolutionary youths. They are waiting for an opportunity. They are seeking an opening to infiltrate the revolution. Beware; be vigilant as you have been vigilant in the past and remain so, praise be to God. And our nation will cut off any intervention of the enemy and any crafty finger of the enemy; and it will face the enemy with its clenched fist. [shouts of approval]

And I, on this platform, tell our malicious enemies, who in addition to being malicious are ignorant and foolish for failing to recognize our revolution and our nation and have continued making wrong analyses about this nation for the past 13 or 14 years—they come to wrong

conclusions, and that is why they fail repeatedly—I tell these malicious, ignorant, and foolish enemies that they have been wrong in their understanding of the Iranian nation. This nation is committed to Islam. This nation loves those who serve Islam. This nation seeks its prosperity in Islam too; and through this nation's commitment and faith in Islam it can undo all the knots that you imposed on their life, God willing. This is not a surrendering nation.

The basij must be vigilant all over the country. All members of the Armed Forces must be vigilant. The Army, the Guards Corps, and the security forces must all be vigilant, but the basij need to be doubly vigilant.

Wherever you are—whether in the towns, the villages, among the tribes, at universities, at religious seminaries, in the bazaaar, in government offices, or at factories—you must maintain your guard. Every one of you must be diligent and vigilant. The enemy never launches his attack from a single front. To deal blows at the revolution and at Islam the enemy launches his attacks from different fronts. Therefore, you must open your eyes; you must be on guard to identify the enemy. Our exalted imam has specified these guidelines for us accurately. When you see that the enemy is obsessed with a certain thing, then you too should be obsessed with that thing. You must know that is where the enemy intends to try to infiltrate.

When you see that the wicked enemies carry out propaganda against the nation and the revolution and against the people's devotion to the revolution, then you should know that the enemy is frightened of the people's devotion to the revolution and from the presence of the people on the scene of the revolution. Your presence on the scene of the revolution and your awareness and preparedness will dishearten the enemy.

Of course we have witnessed God's benedictions, His help, and His clear support for all our affairs. We will continue to witness the same. Great God has showered our nation and our country with His kindness. He has been very good to our nation. He has helped our nation during its gravest times. And God willing, His blessings continue to cover our nation. We hope the Great God will make you all successful, bestow the prayers of the Lord of the Time [the 12th Imam] on you, and make the sacred soul of the imam happy with you.

President Says Country 'Anchor' of Gulf Stability

LD2911120190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Addressing a number of the personnel and the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy this morning on the anniversary of the Navy [Navy Day], President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed appreciation for the effective, important, and constructive role of the Navy during the imposed war.

Pointing out that today the most important world problem is that of energy, he elaborated on the important and sensitive situation of the Persian Gulf region. He said: No location in the world is as important to the issue of world energy as this region. Consequently, one must say that major world events are related to this area and that the region has influence over future world events.

Underlining the vital responsibility of the Navy in defending the Persian Gulf and providing for its security, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the need for maintaining the Navy's preparedness, strength, and mobilization. He added: The Navy must be such that at any time we may have a national defense force relying on domestic resources. He also stressed the need for Navy personnel to receive training and learn new sciences in an effort to attain higher capabilities.

He then said: The mere fact that we are independent as a power and as such we are able to hinder the plunderers is in itself important. Therefore, the Navy must definitely try to find a variety of ways to force the satans of the world to be certain of its strength. Thus, they [the satans] must be forced to understand that in any schemes they may devise for the region, they must reckon that one party [to the scheme] is Iran. And if Iran is not satisfied, then nothing can be accomplished.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that a high standard of preparedness by the Navy is imperative—at least for the safeguarding of our own resources and interests, and that fact had received the attention of the exalted commander in chief of the forces as well as the government.

In another part of his remarks, the president said: Fortunately, the conditions are such today that nobody can ignore the role of the Islamic Republic. Now they pay attention to the fact that the Islamic Republic can be the anchor on which the stability of the region depends. That is because we do not deem adventurism to be in the interests of ourselves, the world, or the region. Our policy is not adventurous; we do not intend to throw the region into turmoil or insecurity. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Our policy is based on full tranquillity in the region so that it may be able to exploit its resources to make up for its having lagged behind [in the past]. For that reason we can be an axis for stability and security in the region. And one of our instruments to enforce that policy in the sea is the Navy.

Our country's president also expressed his appreciation for the Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. He hoped that through coordination between the two forces and centralization of their affairs, it will be possible to convince others in the region not to resort to mischief.

In another part of his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: You must have cause to feel proud that you are the only Army who work for God, under the slogan of God, on the path of God, and under the command of the

Guardianship of the Jurisconsult, with the support of the Muslim nation and in defense of the interests of your own nation.

Concluding his remarks, the president paid tribute to the valuable martyrs of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Karrubi Says U.S. in Gulf To Oppose Revolution

LD2911115890 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi on Thursday [29 November] stressed that military expedition of the U.S. to the region was not aimed at destroying (Iraqi President) Saddam's war machine.

But, he noted, the move rather aimed to confront the smashing waves of the Islamic revolution, weaken resistance of Hizbollah forces in the world, and stabilize the balance of power in the interest of the Zionists.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi made the remark in the opening session of the one-day seminar on "Koran and Basij" aimed to further acquaint the Basij (Mobilisation) forces with the Islamic teachings, here this morning.

He warned against unending hostilities of international arrogance against the Islamic revolution and called for further strengthening of the defence power in order to safeguard the revolution and territorial integrity of the country.

*Commentary on U.S. Reluctance To Find Solution

91AS0225A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Oct 90 p 24

[Text] As the current Persian Gulf crisis is about to begin its fourth month, despite continued international efforts to find a peaceful way to end the occupation of Kuwait, the propaganda battle and major threats continue from the two sides, and as the main claimants to the occupied lands of Kuwait, America and Iraq continue as before concentrating on increasing their military capability as much as possible.

In the past few weeks, the major effort, intended to avoid war and guide the crisis to a political settlement by giving some kind of territorial concession to Iraq, has been the recent visits by the Soviet representative to Iraq and then to several of the Western nations involved in the crisis.

So far it is clear that behind the facade these measures have failed completely, although they illustrate Iraq's satisfaction for now with having annexed at least part of Kuwait to Iraq, and despite plain statements by America and England seriously opposing giving any kind of concession to Iraq before it withdraws unconditionally from Kuwait.

Despite the increasing political and economic pressure caused by the sanctions, the Iraqi regime has shown so far that as long as there is no danger of war, it is willing to endure any other kinds of pressures, even for long periods of time.

From the Iraqi point of view, the only thing Baghdad can count on now is time, and under the present circumstances the leaders of the Iraqi regime, to gain more time, are willing to grant any concessions in bargaining with the West other than withdrawing unconditionally from Kuwait.

In the current view of Iraq's leaders, the hostages in Iraq and Kuwait are actually the most valuable goods Iraq can employ to gain more time.

The gradual release of the Western hostages one after the other, which began early in the crisis with a questionable initiative by the president of Austria, has had relatively good results so far for the Iraqi regime, and has made stronger the option that this measure can not only be used to help Iraq avoid complete political isolation in the world, but more importantly, while it creates more time to digest Kuwait, it also further divides the opposing European governments on the question of America's accelerating military plans against Iraq. Yet it appears that the Iraqis have more or less lost even the hope of any guarantee of being able to continue the political life of the government of Iraq in the event of a complete withdrawal from Kuwait.

On the other hand, indications are that America has come to the conclusion that although over an unforeseeable period of time the sanctions might bring the Iraqi regime to its knees, in the short term, and in view of America's time limitations, not only do they lack the necessary effectiveness, they can bring the time factor into the prevailing equations of the crisis in a serious way and to Iraq's advantage.

The recent opposition of the American congress to any kind of linkage of the Kuwait crisis with the occupation of Palestine, the statements by the American secretary of state in meetings with congressional representatives asking them to free the president to set the time and to begin the conflict in the Persian Gulf in view of the necessities that prevail at the start of a war, and in addition the serious efforts by America and the West to issue a new resolution by the Security Council to require Iraq to pay reparations after the crisis ends, all point to the fact that America, despairing of a peaceful solution to the crisis, is more determined than ever to pursue a course whose real continuation can lead only to a devastating war for the nations in the region.

In general, one may infer that the Great Satan, despite being mired helplessly in a swamp, has decided as before to bare its sharp teeth before the Muslim nations of the area and to beat the drums of war, not in the defense of freedom and liberty, but, as always, only for its own illegitimate interests. This reality shows that in their calculations, the war mongers in the Pentagon prefer clenched fists to open ears.

Despite this, the reality cannot be too far from one's thoughts that if a war begins, the imperialist leaders, led by America, are quite likely to have irreversible regrets for having failed to take seriously the old and historic grudge held by the Muslim nations of the area against America.

USSR's Petrovskiy Delivers Message to Velayati

LD2811180590 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—Visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy today submitted Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati a message from his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze.

Petrovskiy also briefed Velayati on the Soviet Union's viewpoints on the UN Security Council session on the Persian Gulf crisis to be held tomorrow, and on the recent visit to Moscow of Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Referring to Iran's important role in the region, the Soviet official lauded what he described as "Tehran's principled stance" on recent developments in the Persian Gulf.

Petrovskiy, who arrived here last night with a message from President Mikhail Gorbachev for his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol- Elsam 'Ali 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, also extended Shevardnadze's invitation to Velayati to pay an official visit to Moscow.

Velayati reiterated Iran's opposition to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and called for withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf.

The security and stability of the region depends on cooperation among regional states and this is a principle in which the Islamic Republic has firm faith, he said.

Further on Visit by DPRK Defense Minister

Meets Counterpart

LD2711122390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] A military delegation from the DPRK led by O Chin-u, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and Minister of People's Armed Forces of the DPRK, last night in a meeting with Mr. Torkan, minister of Defense and Armed Forces logistic, discussed issues of common interest and the strengthening of bilateral relations.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2711130590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received O Chin-u, DPRK minister of People's Armed Forces, who has arrived in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking military delegation.

At this meeting, which was also attended by Mohsen Reza'i, chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Torkan, minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics; and a number of officials from both countries, the DPRK Armed Forces minister submitted a message from Kim Il-song, leader of the DPRK, to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He then expressed pleasure at his visit to Tehran and presented a report on the talks he has held with the officials of our country, adding: Mr. Kim Il-song has asked me to inform Your Excellency that in recent years, the exchanges of the two countries' high-ranking delegations indicate greater strengthening of relations and bilateral cooperation in all areas of interest to the two sides. We have stood alongside you in the past and consider that the Islamic Republic of Iran's success is also our success. And we shall remain by your side and shall support the struggle of the heroic people of Iran to safeguard peace and security in the Persian Gulf region, to strengthen the heritage the Islamic revolution and defend its sovereignty and independence.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the leader of North Korea for his cordial message and expressed pleasure at meeting the high-ranking delegation of the country and government of the DPRK, describing relations between the two countries as good and cordial. Our president noted that Mr. Kim Il-song is a good friend of the Islamic revolution and recalled his sincere cooperation during the era of holy defense, saying that that cooperation will not be forgotten. He added: Due to your country's revolutionary positions we are always willing to have more profound and extensive cooperation with you.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the unity of the two Koreas and expressed the hope that the obstacles to this unity could be overcome. In conclusion he underlined the greater expansion of cooperation between the two countries and asked the DPRK Armed Forces minister to convey his friendly greetings to the leader of that country.

UNIIMOG Mandate Extended for Two Months

LD2911070990 Tehran IRNA in English 0609 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Nov. 29 IRNA—The Security Council in a statement Wednesday [28 November] extended mandate of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG] for another two months.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in a report to the Security Council on Monday requested that the mandate, expiring on Friday [30 November], to be extended for another two months.

According to the Security Council Resolution 676, approved on Wednesday with 15 votes, the UNIIMOG mandate will be extended until January 31, 1991.

The resolution also calls on Perez de Cuellar to report to the Security Council by January on results of his consultations with Iran and Iraq regarding future of the UNIIMOG forces as well his own observations of the issue.

Iraq had requested a six month extension period for the UNIIMOG forces while Iran was calling for a two month extension.

Tehran Said To Reject Forming of Pro-Iraq Front

PM2911113690 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 27 Nov 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iran Foils Iraqi Attempt To Form Islamic Front Supporting Aggression"]

[Text] Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—The government of the Islamic revolution in Tehran has foiled an attempt by parties supporting the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait to form an Arab-Islamic front under Iran's leadership whose task is to provide aid, support, and backing for the Iraqi regime. Informed Iranian sources have told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that the Iranian leadership received proposals in that regard from a Jordanian parliamentary delegation and from a prominent member of the ruling military council in Sudan during their visits to Tehran last month. When a prominent Iranian official met with Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani last week and received from him a proposal similar to that made by the the Jordanian and Sudanese delegations, the Iranian official told his Yemeni guest: A good Muslim cannot defend those who have embraced religion in circumstances of aggression. According to these sources, the Yemeni foreign minister understood what was behind the Iranian official's remark and promptly changed the subject.

Ahmad Khomeyni Stresses Unity of Muslims

LD2811172690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] On the fifth day of Basij week, today thousands of Sunni and Shiite Basij members from Gonbad, some workers from the ammunition factories of the Ministry of Defense and Support for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and various strata of the people of Tehran who were attending the pure shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—renewed their covenant with the aspirations of the imam of the ummah [Khomeyni].

During these ceremonies, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said when congratulating all the Basij members on the anniversary of the formation of the 20-million-strong army, said: The Basij members have experienced many hard times during the years since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. As in the past, they should try with all their might to remove the obstacles on the path of implementing the aspirations of the Islamic revolution.

Stressing the need for maintaining unity between the Shiite and Sunni followers, he said: The Shiite and Sunni brothers and sisters know full well that for a long time the world arrogance has invested a great deal for the sake of creating dissension among them. They should know that the world arrogance will resort to any action in order to devour the resources of Islamic countries. Therefore, with vigilance and unity, we should neutralize the satanic actions of world arrogance.

He added at the end of his speech: His eminence the imam regarded America and Israel as the source of all the troubles of the Muslims. At a time when Israel has intensified its bestial na.ure and is daily massacring Muslims, and when criminal America is laying claim to defending the countries in the Persian Gulf region, the Muslims should stand against the evil collusion of America and Israel, and defend their Islamic dignity.

Velayati on Palestine Conference in Tehran

LD2811114290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] On the eve of the Palestine Conference in Tehran, Foreign Minister Velayati, during an interview with reporters, pointed to the importance of holding the conference and to the sinister plot of world arrogance in the transfer of Jews from all the world to occupied Palestine. He said: As a Muslim nation, it is our duty to defend the people of Palestine and to help the intifadah.

He added: Recent developments in Lebanon have helped turn the world's attention to the crimes committed by Israel. We are all dutybound to ensure that the Palestinian problem is not forgotten. This is exactly what the Israeli regime is trying to do—make the world forget the Palestinian issue by fanning the flames of the Persian Gulf crisis. Therefore, one of the reasons for holding such a conference is to keep the Palestinian issue alive.

He said: There is no reason for a country to occupy another Islamic country if that country claims it is struggling against Israel and defending the rights of Palestine.

We regard Israel as fundamentally an usurper regime, even if it occupies an inch of Palestinian soil.

The foreign minister pointed to the recent developments in the region and said: We oppose the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and approve the UN resolutions for the liberation of Kuwait. At the same time, we oppose the justification used by the United States, since, if it is trying to act within an international umbrella, how can it justify the attacks upon Grenada and Panama? While we oppose the presence of foreign forces in the region, we support Kuwait's independence and believe that the security of the region must be maintained by the countries of the region.

Paper Comments on 'Frustration' Over Palestine

LD2911092490 Tehran IRNA in English 0817 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—A morning daily Thursday [29 November] editorialized on rapid development of events, related to the Palestinian issue, during the past few weeks.

"The current inflamed situation, no doubt, is an expression of the Muslims' growing frustration over the way the Palestinian question is being overlooked," wrote the English-language 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL'.

The heroic actions of recent days have been perpetrated by previously unknown devout Muslims (?who) also represent the younger generation, their age ranging from 16 to early 30's, said the paper.

The recent actions of this young breed of Muslim militants are alternatives to the failure of Palestinian and Arab leaders, whose weakness has brought about the present impasse in the region, noted the article.

However, the daily added, an important key to understanding the recent events lies in seeing the extent to which the oppressed Muslims in Palestine have managed to move towards their goals.

"It does not matter whether the assailant is an Egyptian border policeman, a Palestinian construction worker or a Lebanese teenager. They feel the way the rest of the Palestinians do," concluded the paper.

Paper on Western, National Hostages in Lebanon

LD2711235190 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA—The case of the first and the longest held hostages in Lebanon, the four forgotten Iranians kidnapped way back in 1982 by Phalangist terrorists, was taken up by the English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Tuesday [27 November].

Last week the families of Iranian hostages were in Lebanon but all they received after meeting Lebanese leaders including perhaps the possible Christian captors, was, in the words of the daily "a mass of contradictory information on the fate of their loved ones."

Arguing for a comprehensive settlement of the 'hostage issue' if the West is really sincere about it, the paper cautioned the Islamic Republic that if it were to use its influence with Lebanese Muslim groups for tracing out the Westerners "it would be generating controversy for having succumbed to a double standard, namely that the lives of Western hostages are more important than those of their Iranian counterparts."

It said the Lebanese Government, Syria and Iran are all trying their best to undo the hostage issue, but as prominent Lebanese Alim Seyyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah puts it "the whole (hostage) file should be closed because the issue is a humanitarian one."

"The key word" in Seyyed Fadlallah's statement, emphasized KAYHAN, "is the idea of wholeness, something the Western parties to the crisis don't seem to share."

In the meantime, it said, Lebanese Christian groups, whom the Western media which cries hoarse over the Western hostages has been "extra careful" not to mention by name, "seem to have elected to engage in a game of hot potato by shifting the blame."

Phalangist militia leader Samir Ja'ja' says his predecessor Elie Hubayqah kidnapped and exterminated the four Iranians, while the latter puts the blame on Ja'ja'.

"What they all want the relatives of the missing Iranian hostages to know is that their loved ones are dead, without producing any concrete evidence substantiating their claims," noted the paper.

However, it made it clear "The position of the Iranian Government which was once voiced by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is that: Free them if they are alive - so as to set in motion the overall hostage release - and if they are dead at least 'return their remains'. This is simple and reasonable."

Country To Boycott Companies With Zionist Ties

LD2711223190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] In connection with the start of the fourth year of the uprising of Palestinian Muslims our reporter has prepared a report on the activities and objectives of the Committee for the Defense of the Islamic Revolution of Palestine to which I draw your attention. [Video shows footage on Palestinian youths engaged in demonstrations and fighting against Israeli troops]

[Unidentified reporter] On the threshold of the intifadah, Vice President Mohajerani who is in charge of the Committee for the Defense of the Islamic Revolution of Palestine, in an interview with the Central News Unit today explained the duties of the Committee for the Defense of the Islamic Revolution of Palestine.

Referring to the law enacted by the Islamic Consultative Assembly on support for the Islamic Revolution of Palestine, he said that his law stresses that Jerusalem is designated the center of the Islamic government of Palestine. It also advocates the campaign against the Zionist regime and the liberation of the sacred Islamic territory of Palestine.

[Begin Mohajerani recording] To achieve this grand objective the law has placed several specific duties on the shoulder of the committee. The committee is made up of two Majles deputies selected by the Majles, as well as fully powered representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Intelligence, and Islamic Culture and

Guidance; and also representatives from such institutions as the Foundation of the Disabled and Deprived, the Foundation of Martyrs, and the Red Crescent; and finally, the representative of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' chief commander. As stipulated by law the committee, together with the president of the Republic's representative who is in charge of it, has already begun its work. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in connection with the problem of Palestine, we must devise specific and clear propaganda and of course a political line. To define this line, we hope that the Voice and Vision as well as the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance will be able to chart a path. Eventually, it will be necessary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with other organs that are somehow related to the same issue, to place related information at the disposal of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on companies which are clearly and principally Zionist—companies whose interests and work are Zionist, and in fact make efforts toward expanding Israel's aggression—so that we may not do business with such companies. [passage omitted] [end recording] [Video shows Mohajerani seated, speaking]

Cabinet, Deputies Hold Joint Session 28 Nov

NC2911080590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The country's current problems were discussed at a joint session of the Cabinet members and the Islamic Majles deputies. At this session, which was convened last night at the Presidential Office and which was also attended by the deputies and advisers of the president, the Islamic Majles Speaker Mr. Karrubi expressed his appreciation of the services and unceasing efforts of the president and the government, and of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's decisive role and his brilliant past record in all spheres of the Revolution.

Stating that unity among factions is a valuable principle in Islam, Mr. Karrubi declared the Majles' willingness to cooperate fully with the government.

During this session, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the Majles speaker for his remarks and termed him one of the most prominent combatant figures who is a consistent proponent of the Revolution. The president also thanked the Majles deputies for their cooperation with the government.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani explained government efforts in the economic, political, and social fields and referred to the need for the officials to apply themselves in this constructive period. He said: All of us believe that the country's economy should be transported into an era of prosperity. In my capacity as president I will direct all my energies toward this task.

Noting that Islam does not advocate extravagance or ascetism, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: We should base our lives on sensible and proper welfare for the people, especially government employees and the fixed-income groups. The government and the Majles should work hand in hand.

The president added: At present all the factories are being activated and are moving ahead toward a healthy economic existence. The country's production situation is becoming prosperous, cash liquidity has been reined in, and most of the country's past shortages have been eliminated.

Alluding to the plan for decentralization, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that some major plans are being implemented and fresh programs have been initiated.

Prior to the president's address, some of the Islamic Majles deputies spoke on various issues.

Voice and Vision Organization Budget Discussed

Tehran Radio Views Issue

LD2511165190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Hello, dear listeners. As you have heard on the news, in today's open session of the Majles, the budget for the Voice and Vision Organization for the year 1369 [Iranian year starting 21 March 1990] has been reduced by 10 billion rials, and therefore the budget allocated for the current year for the Voice and Vision has been reduced by 31 billion rials. [sentence as heard]

To understand the outcome of this reduction and the negative effect that it will have in the activities of the Organization, especially in the area of improving the quality of the programs, it is essential that we take a look at the budget and the activities of the Organization during the past few years.

In the year 1357 [21 March 1978 to 20 March 1979], the Voice and Vision Organization had 8,400 employees, less than half of the facilities that it has today; 87 radio transmitters; 11 high-power television stations; and a budget equivilant to 39.4 billion rials. This was at a time when 80 percent of the Organization's programs were produced abroad.

As of the year 1364 [March 1975 to March 1976], due to the war conditions imposed on our country, the budget for Voice and Vision was reduced to 26 billion rials. Considering the particular situation of the country under war conditions, this figure was justifiable. Having said that, this reduction in the budget caused some shortcomings in the work and activities of the Voice and Vision Organization.

At the end of those particular conditions of the war years, the Organization's budget gradually began to increase because of its importance and its sensitive role in society.

This year, the Voice and Vision Organization has over 12,000 personnel, 200 radio transmitters, 27 high-power television stations, an extensive FM network, 24 radio and television centers in the provinces, 14 programs for abroad, and a considerable expansion program. It suggested 60 billion rials for the 1369 year budget so that, first, it may fulfill its commitments from previous years; and second, it could increase the quality and quantity of the programs that are approved and appreciated by all.

Because of the constraints on the government, it approved the sum of 41 billion rials for the 1369 budget. This increase led to a leap in the quality of the programs of the Voice and Vision Organization, and everyone has been witness to this fact. But still, the budget approved for the Organization was not enough for it to meet its costs. This year, although 41 billion rials were approved, the Organization faced a shortage of funds. Fifteen plans to improve security [amniyat] begun in 1368 [March 1989 to March 1990], which need 7.5 billion rials of credit, have been halted due to lack of funds.

In relation to the shortage of funds, the Organization communicated extensively with the Presidential Office, the Plan and Budget Organization, and the Plan and Budget Commission of the Islamic Consultative Majles. Following a request from Voice and Vision for an increase in the Organization's budget in this year's budget amendment bill, the Majles Plan and Budget Commission formed a committee consisting of four esteemed Majles deputies to review the budget. The committee, after discussions and reiteration of a shortage of funds for this Organization, suggested that in the budget amendment bill 3.75 billion rials be added to the budget to alleviate the problem of the shortage of funds. Unfortunately, the Plan and Budget Commission did not accept the committee's findings and simply said that if the suggested sum [were allocated] then the total budget for the Organization will be over the sum approved for 1369. Therefore, there was no increase in the Organization's budget in 1369 and today, unfortunately, following a request from some Majles deputies, 10 billion rials from the 41 billion rials allocated to the Organization were removed. This means the Organization's budget has been reduced by about one-fourth.

The question is what effect will this action have on the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran? The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always acted as the strong arm of the Islamic revolution and the voice of the great movement of the brave Iranian people. Friends and enemies are aware of its sensitive and fundamental role in the trend of the Islamic revolution. How can it continue with its massive task after all the changes that are occurring in its funding?

We must see who is to benefit from a weakening of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic. Today's world is one of communication. Mass media, especially the radio and television of the arrogant powers, have a sensitive and basic role in propagating their policies and culture. Is it right that today, when the Voice and Vision should be confronting arrogant propaganda and continuing its cultural battle, its budget is decreased rather than increased to by one-fourth?

The events of the past few months have shown that if attention is paid to the problems of the Voice and Vision, especially to its budget, the ability and potential exists within the Organization to make leaps in improving the quantity and quality of its programs. Reducing its budget will definitely have a negative effect on its programs. The Voice and Vision will not be able to respond to the requests and needs of society. Certainly, only the enemies and propagators of arrogance will benefit from the vacuum in the activities and programs of the Voice and Vision.

Debate by Deputies Broadcast

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[From the Majles Program]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings dear viewers. [passage omitted] We invite you to watch the program of the Islamic Consultative Majles. [passage omitted]. Dear friends, I invite you to listen to the remrks of Mr. Alviri, head of the Plan and Budget Commission of the Islamic Consultative Majles since he has—in the course of these past two weeks—talked about the supplementary bill to the Budget Act for 1369 [starting 21 March 1991] and since the Majles has been discussing and examining the budget and its supplement. I draw your attention to what Mr. Alviri has to say:

[Alviri] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This year's supplementary budget bill covers a variety of topics. The three care issues in it, however, are: first, the released POW's and the issue of their employment. Second: the reconstruction of quake-hit regions and regions damaged by floods. Thirdly, the issue of determining the allocation of the above-the-ceiling foreign exchange income which may be earned this year.

With regard to the first issue, that is, the released POW's: Since we had not foreseen last year that resolution 598 would proceed so quickly and that our beloved ones would be released, we approved only a very small amount of credit to be allocated to the POW fund. But, with the POW's now present in our country it is necessary for us to attend to their employment problem as well as the issue of current budgets involving their entry ceremonies and provisions made for their preliminary and essential needs. Five billion tomans [50 billion rials] have been envisaged in this bill by the government for the current and essential expenses of the POW's. In addition to this, the bill stipulates that the banks are dutybound to give bank loans to the POW's and assist their self-employment prospects. [passage omitted]

As to the reconstruction of quake and flood-stricken regions, we had already allocated some credit for the purpose, but the scale of the destruction in the Gilan and Zanjan Provinces was so great that there was need for more credit. Therefore, 20 billion rials were allocated for damage caused by earthquake and 16 billion rials for the recent floods in Gilan Province, making a total of 36 billion rials which have been forecast in the supplementary bill.

The third issue dealt with in this bill concerns the surplus foreign exchange income. As you are aware, the price of oil in the five-year plan was forecast to be $17 [per barrel] for the year 1369. At the start of the year, our foreign exchange earnings were small because the price of oil dropped but, from about the month of mordad [Aug/Sept] onward, earnings from oil increased, and evidently our foreign exchange earnings will also rise, especially in the second half of the year. The plan did not make any provisions for the allocation of this increased foreign exchange income because, unfortunately, in these few years after the victory of the revolution our foreign exchange earnings were less than the amount forecast in the Budget Act. The supplementary bill now provides that if there is revenue over and above the amount of $17.14 billion, that is the amount of revenue already forecast in the [Budget] Act and the budget allocation for which had also evidently been envisaged, then this surplus should be spent on three or four essential and necessary sectors such as transport, reconstruction, and the gas supply network.

There are many problems regarding our transport because we need to expand this network during the reconstruction stage and past resources are not adequate. As for the gas supply network, the five-year plan has envisaged an expansion of this network so that it could replace medium-distilled fuels, and thus if we obtain more foreign exchange revenue, we should also allocate it to this sector so as to speed up gas supply to urban areas.

An increase in foreign exchange is also due to be spent for reconstruction because we have no choice but to give priority to the reconstruction of war-stricken areas and also quake-stricken regions.

Surplus revenue is also due to be allocated to the probem-ridden area of building materials. Many of our building projects and production activities in the country are facing difficulties due to shortages of building material. There is a shortage of cement, iron bars, rods, and such things and this will raise the cost of building projects, especially in the public sector, to a level that is over and above that envisaged by the Plan and Budget Organization. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Dear viewers, as you are aware, the Islamic Majles voted to reduce one billion tomans [10 billion rials] from the current budget of the Voice and Vision. In view of the daily expansion of the programs produced by the radio and television, this reduction will definitely reduce the quality of the work produced by this Organization. Let us, therefore, discuss this issue further by broadcasting some examples of the preagenda speeches by the deputies in favor and against this bill. Mr. Nowruzi is one of the deputies who spoke in this connection. We draw your attention to his preagenda speech.

[Begin Nowruzi recording] How can the honorable deputies agree with any increase of this budget? Look at the growth of the Organization's budget requirements. You are aware that in the year 1367 [21 March 88 to 20 March 1989] the allocated budget was 23.4 billion rials. Out of this figure, 19.6 billion rials were the variable costs, and 3.8 billion rials were their development budget. The budget allocated to the variable costs increased by approximately 3.4 billion rials in the year 1368. That is, the variable costs for the year 1368 was 20 billion rials and 4.6 billion rials were allocated to the development projects, bringing to 24.6 billion rials the total budget of the Organization. Considering, however, the budget figure of 41.1 billion rials for the year 1369 [current Iranian year ending on 20 March 1991], we realize that the budget has nearly doubled. This shows that such a budget cannot be absorbed [as heard]. I thus draw the attention of the honorable deputies to the point that the remainder of the budget for this year cannot be spent during the three remaining months of this year. By reducing the budget we ensure that the Voice and Vision Organization can absorb and spend all its budget. Some might say the Organization could spend more, but this fuels inflation. The Organization is planning to spend its development projects for the payment of salaries and for covering variable production costs. This is contrary to anti-inflationary plans. [end recording]

[Announcer] In view of the statistics and figures given by Mr. Nowruzi, Mr. Jahangiri, as a person opposed to any reduction in the current budget of the Voice and Vision, has made some remarks to which we draw your attention:

[Begin Jahangiri recording] I, as a member of the budget commission, would like to draw your attention to the fact that when a number of able bodies from the budget commission were given the task of studying the current budget of the Voice and Vision with the view to an increase in the supplementary budget, their report to the commission found that they [radio and tv] were in need of greater credit, and that the current credit should be extended. My dear brother, Mr. Nowruzi, believes that a reduction of 10 billion rials would not face them with any problems, whereas a reduction of ten billion rials from the Voice and Vision budget is certain to bring about a decline in the quality of all the development and current programs [as heard]. Those whose work is in the border provinces are aware that one of the most important and fundamental obstacles pertaining to not only the country's border regions, but also regions as far out as 400-500 km outside the country, is that instead of receiving a good transmission from our own domestic channels, we receive those of the foreign channels, and this poses a serious cultural problem to our country

today. Not only do we need the current budget, but it is vital that we should endeavor to increase it next year to develop the Voice and Vision in those areas, hence putting a stop to the cultural corruption which is being injected into society by the foreigners. Thus a 10 billion rial reduction, under any kind of pretext—whether in respect of the staff salary, or a cultural program, or the government revenue, or any other reason—I believe would be tantamount to a decline in the quality of the programs of the Voice and Vision, and we are vehemently opposed to that proposal. Having reviewed the budget, we did indeed consider proposing an increase in the supplementary budget, but we did not consider it expedient to increase it. We also oppose, however, any reduction, even though we believe that in relation to its encounters with the Majles, the Voice and Vision must review the matter and make amendments. [end recording]

[Announcer] Well, dear viewers, in this part of the program we invite you to listen to parts of the remarks by Mr. Musavia-Lari, who is in favor of a reduction in the current budget of the Voice and Vision Organization.

[Begin of Musavi-Lari recording] Unfortunately, our brother Mr. Jahangari, whose remarks on the budget should have been technical, turned it into a political discourse. I believe that a political discussion related to the Voice and Vision is of a secondary aspect, and the main discourse concerns the budget. I would like to ask Mr. Jahangiri to pay attention to this issue. His preliminary remarks condemning the Voice and Vision, and the Voice and Vision's unsuitable approaches, is a separate issue and it is for the Majles to deal with those issues concerning which I do not have much to say. The main issue is that the Voice and Vision's budget is 41 billion rials, which was reduced by something around 23.01 billion in the first nine months of this year, of which 20.09 billion went toward the expenditure. This means that something around 20 billion is left for the remaining three months. The point we are making is that of this remaining 20 billion rials at the disposal of the Voice and Vision, much will go to unsuitable expenditure. I ask Mr. Jahangiri to pay attention to this. You see, nine billion rials from the total 41 billion rial budget of the Voice and Vision is spent on development credits, a part of which is spent on those luxurious studios which do not solve any of the country's problems. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] Dear viewers, in connection with the past two weeks' debates in the Majles, specifically with regard to the debate on the reduction of the Voice and Vision Organization's budget, the head of the public relations of this Organization is a guest on our program, and we draw your attention to his remarks:

[Begin Voice and Vision official recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Bearing in mind Clause 94 of the internal regulations of the Majles—which states that on occasions when a legal bill or project is not related to the internal affairs of the Majles, the board of directors is commissioned to make an official request to the minister or the relevant official stating that he or his deputy who has been officially introduced to the Majles, to attend the [Majles] open session, so that the debate takes place in his presence, where he has the right to voice his opinion—and the fact that the representative of the Voice and Vision in the Majles was absent during the debate on the reduction of the budget, I deem it necessary to inform you of a few points:

1. According to the report, the Voice and Vision's budget has doubled in relation to the previous year, while, firstly, regarding the figures mentioned in the report, the increase has not been twofold. Secondly, by virtue of current figures and information at the Organization, the Organization's budget has been increased by fifty percent.

2. According to the report, the operations of the [first] nine months cost 26.09 billion rials, whereas the [real cost of] operations came to around 39 billion rials.

3. The report concludes that around 20 billion rials remain for the final three months of the year, whereas the remaining nonallocated credit is approximately nine billion rials, thus being a reduction of 10 billion rials from the remaining nine billion rials of the Organization's budget.

4. An important point is that the Voice and Vision Organization has some binding commitments, such as the sum of 4.01 billion rials in the development projects' section, and around seven billion rials in the current section, totaling 11.01 billion rials which have to be paid by the end of the current year. It should be mentioned that these commitments do not take into account staff salaries and benefits for the three months, which come to about 3.75 billion rials. [passage omitted]

5. In his remarks, the honorable deputy places the development projects budget next to the current budget and in comparison to the budget spent on the production of the programs. The imbalance between the development budget and program productions budget is questioned, while these two budgets are totally unrelated. It should be mentioned that the television and radio network's programs production budget totals 4.5 billion rials, which is forecast within the framework of the budget, hence the figures of 50 and 30 million tomans [500 and 300 million rials] are incorrect. [end recording]

*RESALAT Reports Majles Open Sessions

17 October 90

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[Text] An open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan. In this session, after remarks by the representatives of Tehran, Maragheh, and Orumiyeh, the Majles session was called to order.

The following is the text of the remarks by the pr-agenda speakers and the resolutions of the Majles.

Maryam Behruzi, the Representative of the People of Tehran: O Imam, Under the Prophet-like Leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the People Will Follow the Line Which You Depicted

The first pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mrs. Behruzi, the representative of the people of Tehran. In her remarks, she offered her congratulation for the great victories of Islamic Iran and the return of the POWs. She then condemned the crimes of the usurping zionists and added: With the savage massacre of the innocent people of Palestine, the regime occupying Jerusalem has expedited its own destruction at the hand of the world Muslims. Has not the United Nations been roused by the roar of the lion-hearted women of Palestine and is not the blood of the beloved martyrs more valuable than the oil of the Persian Gulf?

She said: Because the criminal America showed its ugly and inhumane face once more and hindered the passage of the resolution against Israel, it must know that the destruction of America, Israel, and world arrogance is an easy task for crusading Muslims who consider martyrdom a noble achievement. The world will at last witness the liberation of Jerusalem at the hands of the brave children of Islam and adherents to the sovereignty of God's religion.

In another part of her remarks, she stated: Once again the sun of the revolution, like the beloved imam, shined its rays and warmed the lives. It was to continue the movement initiated by the late imam, under his leadership, and give hope to the Islamic world. To celebrate, with utmost joy, the renewal of the covenant with the imam and the prophet's birthday, together with the freed POW's, based on the principal of velayat, and thus mark another golden page in a history filled with heroism and zeal. With their strong vote for the Assembly of Experts, they reconfirmed the Islamic regime and showed that hooliganism and fomenting unrest do not distract them and they are ever more firm in their struggle against America. As it was expected, after the selection of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i and reconfirmation of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult], America and other arrogant powers did not sit quietly and contemplated conspiracy. Finally, it became evident that since the Islam of velayat and leadership sprouts from within the Assembly of Experts, the American conspiracy was activated in a creeping move. They acted in order to lower the level of expertise, create disputes, introduce elements other than scholars and jurists (indeed the non-experts)—with predetermined political objectives aimed at changing the path drawn by his eminence the imam and diverting his inheritance—and, ultimately in case of failure, discrediting and distorting the elections and preventing the widespread participation of the people in them to depict a weakened impression of the pillars of the Islamic system. Thank God, the experts acted expertly and, by reliance on high political instincts, with the correction of two resolutions they neutralized these divisive efforts and laid a firmer foundation for the Assembly of Experts. Ultimately, the American conspiracy was thwarted as a result of the firm and decisive wisdom of the brave people of Iran. As for the importance of that resolution, it suffices to say that it caused anger among the opportunists and pretenders of expertise in a way that, at first, they questioned the form and even the place of passing of enactments of the Assembly of Experts. In this connection, the leader of the Muslims said: "Edicts of the Assembly of Experts are without any fault in form. Those who talk must be watchful of the subjects and necessities of their statements. They must heed to avoid causing happiness among enemies, sadness among friends, and peeve the nation."

In her remarks, Mrs. Behruzi referred to the criticism of opponents to the Assembly of Experts elections and said:

1. Some of the gentlemen criticized the procedure of implementation. As it is clear to all, the Council of Guardians acted in utmost fairness. In this connection, there were some gracious brothers who—after failing the test, not being invited or inable to take the test for any reason—showed the true substance of their faith with appreciation and praise according to the expression, "Man's substance is learned in trying times," and there were those who proved that they were unqualified.

2. Without a legal reason, they considered the number of candidates to be insufficient and aimed to disappoint the people and prevent them from active participation in the elections. With the help of God they did not succeed and, despite evil American plans against the experts and the leadership, experts were sent to the second assembly. Although they consider the election of experts largely disastrous, call the leadership's remarks divisive, and depict moves against the leadership as obedience to vali-ye faqih [the supreme jurisconsult], they must know that the people are alert and political analysts are informed.

3. The assault on great Islamic figures. This in itself is not a new act. The first person in contemporary history who, as ordered by America, launched the most vicious propaganda and actual attacks was the cursed shah, who explicitly called the clergy reactionary and worms in the slime which prevent the country from progress and reaching great civilization. The next attacker was Assadollah 'Alam whose excuse for such attacks was taking side with the farmers and workers and opposing capitalism, the chieftains, and feudal lords. Also, external enemies—America, Russia, England, and their allies, launched on the most vicious attacks and propaganda campaigns against the noble and combatant clergy. Domestic enemies, the hypocrites, Forqan and Arman-e Mostazafin [banned organizations] each unleashed their anger and animosity against the clergy. Later, the filthy Tudeh Party, under the guise of supporting the line of the imam, tried desperately to wipe out the line of the imam.

The Fade'iyan-e Khalq [Organization] accused the clergy in the imam's line of supporting the bourgeoisie and the innocent martyr Ayatollah Beheshti of supporting capitalism, the private sector, and seeking dominance. From the likes of Bani-Sadr, Qotbzadeh, and the evil band of Mehdi Hashemi, whose tracts were under the titles of "Combatant Clergy and Alert Clergy" and against the exalted clergy. As America knows that the most serious blows come from this type of clergy, it does not allow them to take root.

4. One of the deputies was disrespectful to the sacred position of the great leader of the revolution, when, in support of his faction, he accused the imam of being a radical. First if your good dream could be interpreted, the imam would consider one of these radicals befitting the leadership. This already contradicts your claim. We take refuge with God if the imam was a radical and did not transfer the leadership to them! The beloved imam was, and still is, the great leader of the Islamic world. In the last days of his blessed life, he announced, "I adhere to the traditional and substantive jurisprudence." He personally depicted the path of the revolution in a way that the responsibility and leadership of the revolution would be carried out by the same mentality that subscribes to pure Mohammadan Islam and the rest are all the guards, bearers of the mantle of prophecy, devotees of the revolution, and seekers of the path of the late imam. I beseech the exalted scholars and grand ayatollahs not to remain quiet and allow such nonsense to be said about the beloved imam.

Also, I would ask you who accuse the faction other than your own of supporting capitalism and being in absolute agreement with admitting misfits to main national organizations—which one of the distinguished figures who were elected to the Assembly of Experts possess those characteristics? Be more careful about what you say. Like those who during the glorious days of the imam—despite their claims to the contrary—did not understand the word and the line of the imam and after his remarks about rejecting American Islam and affirmation of pure Mohammaden Islam (without comprehending the auspicious meaning and views of the imam) began attacking such bright individuals as Ayatollah Yazdi, the sincere student of the imam, and caused the fiasco in Tehran's Mehdiyeh which is fresh in everyone's mind. However, the beloved imam, recognizing him as a just and valuable jurist, immediately appointed him as one of the six esteemed members of the Council of Guardians, which is at the head of all affairs. In effect, he put all the political players who do not think of anything but their individual and factional interests in their place. Therefore, in fact, their problem is with the imam of the nation. Just yesterday, you saw how they made fun of the edicts of the grand ayatollahs, which are mostly the edicts of the imam himself. Not more than a year and some passes from the demise of the imam. This is the charter of the imam which you claim to be following. While presenting incorrect statistics of the votes cast, you said that it is wrong to say that, "Those who voted acted in accordance with their religious obligation and the rest committed sacrilege." This is a grave mistake. You made a mockery of religious obligation. This is the word and the decree of His Eminence the imam who considered participation in the elections as adherence to religious obligations and the opposite to be forbidden and a major sin. perhaps you mean to say that those who did not vote for the establishment of the Islamic Republic did not act sacrilegiously...! Because it is in accordance with democracy? When you claimants of freedom and democracy aimed to attune the Majles, didn't you achieve this with the help of the Interior Ministry? Did you not declare a majority by your faction as a great victory? When you found your faction in the majority, did you not consolidate your power by wresting the authority of the leadership of the Majles and divided the missions, interparliamentary committees, and other key posts among your own group? Did you not take organizational advantage of the Majles podium? Is not the newspaper which you put out in the name of the Majles a factional one? And a thousand other acts that are a hundred times worse than Watergate. Are not your slogans contrary to your act of two weeks ago towards Mr. Zamaniyan? Did you not tear the text of his speech because it was not to your liking? Did you not assault and batter the speaker who was speaking on behalf of the majority? Are your factional statements in the interest of Islam and Muslims?! In all fairness, are not these worse than the seemingly religious statements (by the previous and expelled representative of Karaj)? Is not your analysis similar to that of the post revolution anti-revolutionaries and the enemies of Islam? Before it is too late, review your political line, correct your past mistakes, and step in line with the true line of the imam of the nation—which is obedience to the leadership—so that you may be favored by God and the awakened Iranian nation.

In conclusion, Mrs. Behruzi emphasized: O Imam, your revolution proceeds gloriously and mightily and, under the prophet-like leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the people follow the line which you depicted and, God willing, with the globalization of Islam, they shall pass it on to his holiness the absent imam (peace be upon him).

Nader Taheri, the Representative of the People of Maragheh: In Principal, a Live, Striving, and Determined Society Always Re-evaluates Its Methods and Corrects, Complements, or Changes the Policies

The second pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Taheri, from the Maragheh constituency, who said:

In the Islamic government, change in methods does not mean change in principals. The solicitous nature of jurisprudence, the openness of the door of theology, the existence of different and contradictory decrees by great scholars, rapid social changes, shifting conditions and opportunities, recognizing weaknesses, faults, and needs, all are indications of the validity of this claim. In principal, a live, striving, and determined society always

re-evaluates its methods and corrects, complements, or changes the policies. However, change always results in some opposition which, despite deceptive appearance as the defense of principals, have other intentions. If we want Islam to be the answer to all the needs of today's man and the Islamic Republic to become a model for today's societies, we must diligently safeguard the principals and objectives of the Islamic school and the revolution. We must persistently question policies and tactics, correct and complement them, and introduce change and variety. The new global doctrine is that of change and the new governing chapter in our country should also be accompanied by change. If we fear a handful of opponents, we will have no answer for the craving citizens of the world.

In continuation, he added: A key to the universal success of our eminent imam was his bravery and comprehensiveness in the introduction of socio-political arbitration and adjudication changes. Change in the Constitution was precisely an indication of awareness of false methods and correcting them rather than changing the principals of the revolution. Accepting the UN resolution, though difficult and unbelievable, was a tactical and methodical change—perhaps to safeguard and strengthen the principals. Such is the way of the saints. Many hard-liners accused Imam Hassan (peace be upon him) [the son of 'Ali] of reconciliation—when alive and after martyrdom—and claimed that he discounted the principals.

Did prophets discount principals?! Certainly it is not so. However, the style of His Holiness 'Ali differed from, or seemed even contradictory to, that of Imam Hassan (peace be upon him), Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him), and Imam Sajjad [epithet of Imam Zeynol-Abedin] (peace be upon him). But all those guiding imams adopted different methods in order to safeguard the principals. There is much difference between the rise and revolt of Imam Hoseyn (peace be upon him) and the acceptance of the crown prince position by Imam Reza (peace be upon him) although both are imams. Throughout history, no one has been more fundamentalist than the innocent imams. Eleven leaders in 200 years possessed eleven different methods and tactics and were more fundamentalist than all.

The speaker then referred to changes in the method of securing social justice and stated:

Securing social justice is not a slogan. Considering the domestic and external difficulties, if we have not been able to realize the desired justice, we must change the methods. His Holiness 'Ali added to the items subject to zakat [tithes] which were prescribed by the beloved prophet. If we define social justice as just distribution of wealth, jobs, and life security, health, public education, eradication of unemployment, and all other elements described in the Constitution, then certainly the rigidity of the selection process for distribution will be among the last in the ranks of social justice. [sentence as published]

In another part of his remarks, the speaker called for the review of the definition of social justice and said: We must study and review the definition of social justice as perceived by Islam. It seems implausible for Islamic justice to sentence people to the maximum punishment for crimes resulting from poverty, ignorance, and unemployment, when poverty and unemployment have not been uprooted and the people's lives are empty and boring. God is merciful and there are no judges or arbiters who, time and again, distribute admonishment and reprimand among the accused. God descended his Koran with the phrase "In the name of God" and if God's anger is to descend, it will not befall those who have been corrupted as a result of ignorance, poverty, and helplessness. Indeed, it will descend upon those who cause and witness such corruption.

In another part of his remarks, the representative of the people of Maragheh mentioned the utilization of the secondary decrees to change some of the decrees and said: Our society is even in need of adopting secondary decrees in order to implement changes in some decrees. Indeed, implementation of decrees is for safeguarding the principals and objectives which are called for by the divine religion and not for harming it. The philosophy behind the principle of secondary decrees, jurisprudence, and velayat in Islam is to safeguard the principles, goals, and objectives of the religion.

How is it that secondary decrees can be used to alleviate economic problems, but cannot be used to resolve widespread social and cultural crises? Such an endeavor requires the kind of bravery that the beloved and gracious imam possessed. The imam believed that safeguarding the Islamic system is the first priority and in order to maintain the dignity of Islam, which results in propagation of the revolution, a mosque may be torn down. Not necessarily a bad mosque, but any mosque.

In conclusion, the speaker added: To safeguard and introduce the revolution, domestic and foreign policies must be re-evaluated and tactics and methods must be reviewed. Such a review is not of the kind of Gorbachev's perestroyka. He re-evaluated the principles of Marxism-Leninism and brought about changes. Our review however, is not one of principles, our principles are divine and ever-lasting, shining, liberating, and exalting. Our review should be in methods which are the results of the human mind and not divine revelations. No one can swear that my theory is the most correct and impossible to change. Such claim is heresy and therefore methods must always be corrected, complimented, and adjusted in the field of action.

'Ali Kamyar, the Representative of the People of Orumiyeh: Tainting the Prestige of the System, Which Is the Source of Hope for the Muslims, the Oppressed, and the Revolutionaries of the World, Is an Immense and Irreparable Error

Yesterday's third and final pre-agenda speaker in the Majles was Mr. Kamyar, from the Orumiyeh constituency, who offered his congratulations to the Islamic nation of Iran on the occasion of the liberation of the heroic POW's.

The speaker, referring to the problem of shortages of diesel and fuel oil in the province of West Azerbaijan said: In connection with West Azerbaijan, I must say that shortages of diesel and fuel oil in the province have reached the point that, regretfully, agricultural activities have come to a halt during recent days. Public bathes have been closed and much economic loss has been endured.

It is necessary that the esteemed minister of petroleum consider this issue as gravely serious and not be content with mere decision-making sessions and act seriously for a practical solution to the problem.

The speaker considered the statement by the leadership of the Majles concerning the recess on Sunday a hasty action and said: There are numerous reasons suggested in defense of this act of which we shall suffice with only a few. Of course, if the names were not announced and such unmanly accusations were not leveled, perhaps I would not be willing to say even these few words in defense.

He said: Considering the closeness of elections, which happen to be the day following this event, due to the exigency of matter which concerned the presence of deputies in order to strengthen the people's presence and its coincidence with Solidarity Week—for which a recess was traditionally put in effect during previous years by the late imam's decree in its recognition—and also in order to avoid possible turmoil inside the Majles (the preparation of which was noted by the triple-urgency plan concerning the elections) and unacceptable talks and confrontations and the hindrance of the speech of a Majles deputy (especially a clergy) to the point that Mr. Sane'i himself warned about bad precedence in the Majles—which was indeed contrary to the prestige of the Majles. Certainly the extent of this commotion would have befallen the nation. In short, in order to escape this strong possibility, religious and political wisdom required that such a presence, leading to such turmoil, should not be. This was to ensure that the elections—which guarantee the life of the regime, the power, strength, and stature of our country, the eminence and greatness of the leader and elation of the late imam, and the destruction of the enemies—could be held on the following day in a calm and orderly atmosphere and so that the problem could be averted before the calamity. Thank God, today the deputies take pride that the elections—under the magnifying glass of the world—were held successfully and the enemies' hopes were dashed. If the elections were not held, it could lead to much corruption as you know.

Continuing, the speaker added: However, I am surprised at the esteemed leadership of the Majles for the hasty distribution of this declaration and announcing the specific names—which was far from expectations. If, hypothetically, I had made a mistake, why was such an act undertaken before an explanation could be heard from me? Secondly, in similar cases, there were instances when the Majles was unable to begin or continue a session because it did not have a quorum. If this time, in your view, the act was a factional or a political one—with a special wisdom and a deep understanding—you should have acted upon holding a closed session in order to analyze and investigate the matter. You should had refrained from smearing the names of individuals and confusing the minds of the people because, according to the imam of the nation, the mind of the people is all but a consignment left with us, the spokesmen and representatives, and we should not commit any act which may result in dispersion of the people and division among them. In any event, as a person who, in practice, believes in strengthening the regime, the revolution, the Majles, and institutions of the revolution—a very important one of which is the Council of Guardians, which was repeatedly endorsed by the imam and whose members are appointed by the imam and our beloved leader—consider tainting the prestige of the system which was the source of hope for the world Muslims, the downtrodden, the homeless, and the imprisoned Palestinian revolutionaries, and all the Muslims whose eyes are on the revolution is an immense and irreparable error.

I wish to respond to the remarks by yesterday's speaker, which regretfully were lashed out against the body of Iran from the pulpit of the Majles. However, by exercising a little prudence, I realized that I am subject to absolute obedience—which is required for solidarity, as was repeatedly emphasized by our late imam, to safeguard Islam under the banner of velayat—and responsible for the maintenance of solidarity and avoidance of conflict.

Edicts

According to the report by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda during yesterday's session of the Majles was the report of the first round of deliberations by the Administration and Employment Commission concerning the bill for the method of considering non-governmental service in calculating the retirement benefits and pension of government employees, which after remarks by deputies for and against, the generalities of this plan were put to a vote and were passed.

The report of the second round of deliberations of the Defense Affairs Commission, in regard to the bill concerning conscript teachers, doctors, and paramedics, was the second item on the agenda of yesterday's session which, after discussions and deliberations by the deputies, this bill was passed.

According to Article 1 of this bill, as of the ratification of this law, each year a number of eligible conscripts with a high school diploma or higher educational degree shall be assigned, as needed, by the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics of the Islamic Republic of Iran—after completion of basic military training—to the Ministries of Education and Training and Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, and the Literacy Movement, until the completion of their conscription. They

shall take part in the principal activities of these ministries in the deprived sectors of the country and the educationally deprived regions.

Also, it is stated in Article 2 of this bill: The number of such eligible conscripts for each term shall be based on the announced needs of the said ministries and the Literacy Movement and shall be subject to the approval of the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters.

According to Article 5 of this bill, this period of service of the said conscripts shall be considered as a part of their draft service.

The said individuals shall be subject to the Armed Forces discipline and penal code. However, their training, health, and treatment shall be subject to the guidelines of the Ministries of Education and Training and Health, Treatment, and Medical Education and the Literacy Movement.

It is also stated in Article 6 of this bill: Determination of the place of service of those whose scholastic and moral qualifications is deemed unfit for taking on teaching responsibilities—per the assessment of the Ministries of Education and Training and Health, Treatment, and Medical Education and the Literacy Movement—during the basic military and professional skills training shall be the responsibility of the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters.

According to Article 7 of this bill, during their service, those eligible under this law shall receive salary and benefits equivalent to their deserved rank and their food, clothing, and housing expenses shall be paid on the basis of the currently practiced guidelines of the Armed Forces.

According to Article 10, those who hold masters degrees and have service obligations to centers of higher education are not subject to this law.

The second item on the agenda was the report of the second round of deliberations of the Housing, Urban Development, Roads and Transportation Commission concerning the bill for authorizing the ratification of bylaws of transportation companies. After remarks by proponent and opponent deputies, this bill was put to a vote and was ratified.

According to Article 1 of this bill, in accordance with this law and in reference to the law for determination of the authority to ratify, correct, or change bylaws of companies and organizations attached to government ministries, ratified on 13 December 1987 by the Majles, the government is authorized to approve the bylaws of the following transportation companies within the framework of the law for establishment of the following companies (ratified on 12 Dec 1982) and by adherence to the Trade and Commerce Law and obtaining the approval of the National Administration and Employment Organization:

A. The Transportation Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran

B. The International Transportation Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran

C. The Refrigerated Carrier Transportation Company

The fourth item on the agenda was the report of the first round of deliberations of the judicial and legal affairs commission concerning the generalities of the legal plan to amend and eliminate some articles of the law of formation of legal courts one and two, ratified in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986], and the law of formation of special civil courts and the law of courts and magistrates of the revolution, ratified by the Revolution Council in 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980]. After discussion and exchanges of views by the deputies this plan was put to a vote and was ratified.

The fifth order on the agenda was the first round of deliberations by the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission in regard to the rejection of the plan to permit educators who hold a bachelors degree in judicial studies to practice law. After remarks by proponents and opponents, the generalities of this plan were put to a vote but did not pass.

An open session of the Majles will be held on Sunday of next week.

The Response of a Member of the Leadership of the Majles to Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahhedi-Saveji

Legal and Majles Division: Following the publication of the letter of Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahhedi-Saveji, the representative of Saveh, concerning the reasons for not participating in the open session of Sunday, 7 Oct 1990, the Public Relations Office of the Majles provided us with a copy of the response by a member of the leadership of the Majles responsible for taking roster of deputies. (The letter of Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji was published in the issue of Wednesday, 10 Oct 1990.) The letter is as follows:

1. The cessation of the Majles by a minority group on 7 Oct 1990 was one of the most obscene acts contrary to the Constitution and an anti-revolutionary measure which does not correspond to any standard of wisdom, religion, and law. Considering that our late imam, may he be placed in heaven, and the exalted leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, have proclaimed any strike and closing down of active centers of the Islamic Republic regime as forbidden and contrary to religious principals, Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji has considered participation in the session of 7 October 1990 as sacrilegious and contrary to the interests of the regime. Actually, it is not clear if he has engaged in jurisprudence and has issued this as a decree or he is simply a follower and has requested for a decree to this effect from a source of emulation.

2. If Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji holds the Majles in highest regards, when the double-urgency plan was left unfinished on Wednesday, 3 Oct 1990, he and his associates should have requested from the leadership council to hold an extraordinary session rather than causing the closure of the regular session of the Majles.

3. The non-holding of open sessions on Saturdays cannot be considered as a measure for the mid-holiday interim of Sunday 7 Oct 1990. However, Sundays are always considered as mid-holidays—as the Majles does not hold any sessions on Mondays neither. Mr. Movahhedi has lost sight of the fact that Saturday is not the Muslim Sabbath.

4. If Mr. Movahhedi failed to be present in the Majles on Sunday in order to go out and encourage the people to participate in the Experts elections, then he should had been in Saveh and not in Tehran. This was at a time when he did not know his organizational directive; to participate in the session or join the strike? Therefore, at first, he signed the deputies' roster but later, after he received the order not to participate in the session, he crossed his name out. Henceforth, his non-participation was not conscious but, rather, organizational obedience.

5. On Monday, 8 Oct 1990, the exalted leader of the revolution stated that verbal arguments over national political, economic, and social issues are customary and as a result of the growing life of the revolution and the country. Whereas Mr. Movahhedi has leveled the most serious accusations and disrespect against the deputies who, in compliance with Principal 84 of the Constitution, have stated their views concerning various issues.

Is it wrong if a deputy asks, "Where in the world a candidate's qualification is determined by his adversary?" Is it wrong if a deputy who was a candidate for the Assembly of Experts whose scholastic as well as political qualifications have been approved by the great scholars of Qom and he so informs the great Islamic nation?

6. If the esteemed Council of Guardians considers Principal 108 of the Constitution as qualified, subject to public or subject to consideration of the said plan and so informs the Majles of its view within the prescribed legal time, the Majles will act upon amending it and actuating the view of the Council of Guardians. This is a customary and usual method and, if you worry that this plan does not contradict Principal 108 of the Constitution, naturally creation of laws is the explicit right of the Majles and one cannot criticize its timing.

Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji should not forget that the qualified source for recognizing the non-compliance of the laws sanctioned by the Majles with the Constitution is the esteemed Council of Guardians and not the strikers of Sunday, 7 Oct 1990.

7. The double-urgency provision of the said plan has been ratified by the esteemed deputies of the Majles, and even efforts to strip its urgency provision lacked the adequate votes. The exalted leader has stated that, "What has been ratified should not be the subject of objection." How come you who in word and deed, in heralding and pandemonium claim obedience to the leadership have joined voices and are collectively opposing the law sanctioned by the Majles?

8. In the statement released by the leadership of the Majles, the names of the culprits who caused Sunday's cessation of the Majles have been revealed. However, the names of those who were on official leave and those who called or sent letters stating that their absence was not illegally motivated was not included in the list.

Usually, the Majles sessions are held and administered with the presence of 190 deputies. On Sunday, 138 were present and if the 55 culprits had also participated in the Majles session, 193 would have been present and it is rare for us to have more than 193 deputies present during open sessions of the Majles. Even the names of four deputies initially included in the list of 55 were eliminated since they submitted a letter and stated that their non-participation was due to their engagement in various activities.

In conclusion, Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji shall be decisively reminded that if, instead of taking orders from a certain organization, he had asked the views of the exalted leadership concerning the closing down of the Majles, he would find this move to be utterly impermissible.

We are confident that our alert and revolutionary nation will not endorse this ugly and illegal act perpetrated by this small minority on Sunday, 7 Oct 1990 and will not permit any legal center in this sacred regime to be closed down.

Peace be upon those who follow the leaders.

21 October 90

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[Text] The Islamic Consultative Majles held an open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian.

In this session, after the remarks by representatives of Iranshahr, Tehran, and Torqabeh, the Majles session was called to order.

The following is the text of the remarks by the pre-agenda speakers and the resolutions of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

Hamideddin Mollazehi, the Representative of the People of Iranshahr: His Eminence the Imam, May God Rest His Soul, Was Always Concerned With Islamic Solidarity and Obliged Muslims To Be Mindful of That

The first pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Mollazehi from the Iranshahr constituency, who in reference to the statements of the exalted leadership on 7 Oct 1990 said: The exalted leadership, by announcing

that today the Assembly for the Cohesiveness of Islamic Sects will begin its work, stated: "We must all move in the direction of Islamic solidarity, which was the wish of the great leader of our revolution. The Assembly for Cohesiveness of Islamic Sects is obligated to move in this direction so that perhaps what has befallen the beloved Islam in the present and distant times are eliminated and the true Islam is revealed."

His Eminence, the imam of the nation, was always concerned with Islamic solidarity and repeatedly called for unity and obligated Muslims to be mindful of that.

Continuing, the speaker stated: The Five-Year Plan if Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government is in its second year. These days we witness some good growth in certain areas, which is a hopeful sign. Concerning the production of wheat (of which, despite massive resources, we continue to import annually) the Ministry of Agriculture has been able to create such a pride-inducing situation—with the faith and excellent capability of the esteemed officials and those involved in agricultural affairs—that we can say that it will be able to fulfill its obligation in the best possible way by the conclusion of its five-year plan vis-a-vis the responsibility that has been delegated to the esteemed government by the Islamic Consultative Majles. In continuation, he mentioned the planning and assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture to farmers in the direction of achieving self-sufficiency and thanked the minister and other officials of this ministry for their hard work.

Continuing, he asked Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani that, in order to better realize the objectives of the Five-Year Plan, the great plan for wheat production be considered a national plan. He suggested that all ministries and institutions which in any way are active in the provision of resources for the production of wheat, furnish all the requirements for this plan in a serious manner and with excellent quality and put them at the disposal of the farmers at the first opportunity.

The speaker continued: The esteemed ministers of heavy industries, defense and armed forces logistics, and post, telegraph, and telephone on an exceptional level and others on acceptable levels are engaged in implementation of tasks within the framework of the Five-Year Plan. However, why haven't the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Roads and Transport shown any indication of implementing this important task?

In this regard, the representative of the people of Iranshahr stated: His Excellency Mr. Hashemi, despite being atop a sea of fresh water, the people of the city region of Iranshahr are seriously complaining about the lack of water. They lack drinking water. Despite repeated notices and requests, the Ministry of Energy has not yet been able to provide drinking water for the city region of Iranshahr. The water pipeline of the Iranshahr center was laid down twenty-five years ago by the city administration, and it requires re-networking. The pipeline for moving water into Iranshahr has been left out in the desert for over eight years. What is the meaning of this?

On the day of Id-e Qorban [the Feast of Sacrifices—observed on the 10th of Zihajjeh] of the current year, a number of good and pious people of Iranshahr were forced to come for prayer without a proper wash due to this shortage of water. They stated their displeasure with the situation and criticized and questioned yours truly.

He added: Your Excellency, Mr. Zangeneh, for God's sake, refer to your own conscience! What have you done so far to resolve this problem?

In this connection, while pointing out that the renovation of villages and preventing the migration of villagers to cities are among the programs of the government, he called for the resolution of the problems facing the villages and the people of his constituency.

Najafqoli Habibi, the Representative of the People of Tehran: The Principles of the Islamic Revolution Possess an Independent Identity Which Stems From the Pains, Is Dependent Upon Islam and the Jurisprudence of the Late Imam, and Shaped by the Unified Presence of the People

Yesterday's second pre-agenda speaker in the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Najafqoli Habibi, from Tehran constituency, who in his remarks stated: National issues and events—within domestic and foreign dimensions—statements, declarations of position, and deeds that are made and committed in the name of the Islamic Revolution raise some questions in ones mind. Does the Islamic revolution have an identity separate from its agents, custodians, and involved individuals? Are the principles of the Islamic revolution those submitted by its agents based on their understanding, style, and foresight whilst independent identity possesses special standards and criterion? How and on what basis have the principles of the Islamic revolution—also pegged as the line of the imam, due to the dominant role of the great leader and founder of the Islamic Republic—been shaped?

Have the principles of the revolution been evolved from a certain book, a certain idea, or a specific group? What is the relationship of the Islamic revolution with the law? Even, can the Islamic revolution be transformed through law and yet, after the change, call it the Islamic revolution?

In continuation, the speaker added: The principles of the Islamic revolution possess an independent identity which is defined as the regulated collection of its codes of conduct, goals, and objectives gathered within a particular span of time, after enduring pains and agonies and by inference from the Book [the Koran] and traditions, through a unique embracing of jurisprudence. For example, the people were suffering from the divine religion being isolated and abandoned, dictatorship and

despotism, class difference, rule without law, dependence upon foreigners, the people's lack of choice, and other such atrocities.

The principles of the Islamic revolution evolved from within these pains, with reliance on the Islamic school, based on the jurisprudence of His Eminence the late imam and shaped by the unified presence of the people. It is based on a series of standards which, if transformed as a result of differing views or a specific impression of its agents throughout history, it will lose its identity. For instance, what took place in the socialist revolution was a clear example of this. A revolution under the name of socialism took place. Later, Lenin—with his own specific understanding—followed by Stalin, brought about such a transformation that resulted in a fundamental metamorphosis of its substance. All know that Gorbachev's Perestroyka cannot be connected with socialism, even with a load of glue, and regretfully most of these changes took place through law. Is the same admissible concerning the principles of the Islamic revolution? Indeed it is not!

The representative of the people of Tehran then recounted the identity and principles of the Islamic revolution and said: The principles of the Islamic revolution, which is the imam's line, possesses its own identity which is crystallized in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic and other statements made by the great leader of the Islamic revolution. No law can transform the principles while maintaining the title—since all these issues have been designed within the principles—unless the title and identity are changed. Therefore, we see that His Eminence the imam repeatedly stated: "The existence of this revolution does not depend on any individual." Also, it is stated in the Constitution that interpellation of ministers and the president is permitted when necessary. It has also been considered at the time of changing the leadership—without a hint of weakening the regime. During these 10 to 12 years all these instances have taken place and His Eminence the imam—throughout his leadership—classified, determined, and clarified these principles and put them at the disposal of the nation. In order that these principles are not manipulated, deviated, disposed of, or destroyed by individuals, agents, and political trends, he repeatedly transmitted them to the people and put them at the disposal of the nation through the Constitution in the written and legislated form. He also re-emphasized them in his divine political will and, until the last days of his blessed life, subjected them to examination and analysis. Thus, he wiped out all the ambiguities. Also, to safeguard the principles from tampering and abandonment, he carefully clarified the nature and methods of various groups opposing the Islamic revolution so as to save the people from going astray. He repeatedly divided Islam, which is the foundation of the principles of the Islamic revolution, and made a distinction between American Islam and pure Mohammadan Islam.

The speaker continued on the principles and identity of the Islamic revolution and said: The imam also divided its exegetists—the religious scholars and clergy—into two groups: Those in the service of kings, the court clergies, and the petrified and, on the other hand, combatants, the selfless and the pious. By suggesting such issues and explaining all kinds of conspiracies, he made the people understand that they should refrain from accepting all that might be depict as Islam and the Islamic revolution. They must also be careful that principles are not forsaken by the permanence of the subject. Since the executives and custodians play a pivotal role in these affairs, he obligated the people not to allow the revolution to fall into the hands of misfits and the unqualified. Who, what groups and what trends, are these non-intimates and misfits? They must be identified based on the established principles and standards as determined in the line of the imam and fiercely prevent the revolution from falling into their hands. Certainly, these cannot be abbreviated in a certain group or spectrum. Therefore, based on the principles of the line of the imam, the people and forces loyal to it must face the issue with dedication and no one has the right to look upon the tide of events indifferently for such individuals have been the subject of condemnation. In all the statements and charters issued by the imam, the most minute details of such methods have been described. Also, in various principals of the Constitution, necessary precautions have been prescribed.

In another part of his remarks, Mr. Habibi referred to the significance of standards and models in the Islamic revolution and the line of the imam and said: In the Islamic revolution and the line of the imam, models and standards must be dominant. This must be prevalent throughout all dimensions of foreign as well as domestic relations—such as establishing relations with other countries, defending the world Muslims and the downtrodden, determining the quality of economic, political, cultural, and military relations with countries and regional poles, the method for assessment of international standards, selecting of agents and officials, and delegation of responsibilities to them, the position of capital and capitalists and various other social, cultural, and economic affairs. It should be closely watched so that an official, in any position and level, does not interject his view as a standard and model for this. If such is done, what guarantees will there be that the revolution will endure? In the events of 1,400 years of Islamic history, there are many lessons concerning those who ruled under the guise of Islam. Give credence O Seeing Crowd.

Mr. Habibi added: Under the present situation and amidst all these discussions and debates, all of what the forces of the line of the imam say is that statements and practical actions in the Islamic Republic must be based upon the same principals as the Islamic revolution—those which His Eminence the imam depicted in his statements and actions, which also have been repeatedly emphasized by the exalted leadership. However, regretfully, a day does not pass without the escalation of worries. For example, although the defense of the downtrodden is one of the uncompromising principals of the

Islamic revolution, the widespread elimination of such forces—at times through an intermediary link and sometimes directly—is presently underway at most government organizations, such as the Ministries of Education and Training, Health and Treatment, and Mines and Metals, and Physical Training. How could this violation of the imam's line, in the name of the Islamic revolution, be explained and tolerated—particularly at a time when America and the West perceive this transformation as a green light and do not even try to hide their pleasure? Despite the explicit text of the Constitution, such tight censorship is being imposed on the mass media that even the letter of the leadership of the Majles and the Combatant Clergy, whose records are well known, are barred from publication. Also—whilst American animosity toward the Islamic revolution and crimes of the great satan against it are well known and His Eminence the imam always portrayed it as the main enemy and the exalted leadership has emphasized on the animosity and the struggle—it is observed that a big brother considers the American presence in the sacred Islamic land and the Persian Gulf region as unacceptable only if it extends for a long period of time. Another one gave an interview to some American television network and stated: "It seems evident that America, by casting a positive vote to the watered-down resolution of the United Nations concerning the crimes of the Zionist regime, has changed its method or attitude and has acted in, so called, harmony with the Islamic World." By a simple piece of advice to the great satan, he shows tenderness from himself. Others, in interviews in Japan and the United Nation, speak such that the same softness can be detected from their statements. Others depicted a warm atmosphere conducive to the possibility of establishing relations with the king of Morocco [King Hasan] and other reactionaries. They do not even try to hide their jubilation at the coming out of political isolation. This is at a time when all are aware that such moves are contrary to the explicit spirit of the Constitution as well as the principles depicted by His Eminence the imam considering that the issue is still the same and America is still the same as before.

The representative of the people of Tehran considered it the duty of the Islamic revolution to assault the great satan and said: The duty of the Islamic revolution, for which the Islamic Republic is like the throbbing heart, is to assault the great satan—even by utilizing the political weapon—rather than adopting a method which results in protecting the interest of the West. As much as the imam used to rely on the people, also in the Constitution this dependence on the people has been formulated in the form of the regime's dependence on the popular vote. Regretfully, some decisions have been adopted, the inevitable result and consequence of which is the people's retreat. If we move in the same direction, we must fear that participation in various ceremonies of the revolution eventually changes from popular-government and becomes limited to government alone, while the people's participation rapidly diminishes.

Eventually two ideological factions took shape within the sovereignty of the Islamic revolution and, while supporting one of these, His Eminence the imam employed both in the service of the revolution. By maintaining this solidarity throughout the eight years of imposed war and all those events, he sewed the seeds of fear among the arrogant and, especially, America. Of course, in the field of action, one of these factions always faced difficulties and was repeatedly the subject of the anger and fatherly scolding of His Eminence the imam. The letter of His Eminence the imam to the minister of labor at the time, the issue of temporary farming, rural land, mines, and the Expediency Discernment Council are examples of such treatments and corrections implemented by the imam. Regretfully it is being observed that, contrary to the imam's modus operandi, the faction closest to the line of the imam and which did not face such criticisms is being eliminated by the other faction. If these forces of the line of the imam are speaking in discontent, it is for none other than safeguarding the principles of the Islamic revolution and the line of the imam and not for personal motivations. In short, as the imam stated: "The whole of our destination is our beliefs."

Mohammad 'Azimi, the Representative of the People of Torqabeh and Chenaran: The Negative Trend Which Tries To Dilute the People's Votes in the Experts Elections Should Come to Its Senses and Refrain From Insulting All That Is Sacred to the People Because Neither the People Nor We Will Allow Such Situation To Persist

Mr. 'Azimi, the representative of the people of Torqabeh and Chenaran, was the last pre-agenda speaker, who in his remarks stated:

At last the resistance of the brave people of Iran under the wise guidance and the imam-like leadership of the leader of the time of Muslims, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, along with the correct, timely, and appropriate approach of the selfless and beloved president, His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, bore fruit. The enemies of the revolution, disappointed and hopeless in the war which was initiated by them, admitted defeat. They accepted the 1975 Algiers Treaty together with its addendums and UN security council resolution 598. Thus, they put the seal of approval on the unequivocal sovereignty of Islamic Iran over the disputed areas. We thank God for this great victory and are thankful to the brave men of the army, the fighting and resisting guards, the selfless and sincere Basijis, and all those who pulled the weight of the holy defense for eight years—especially the exalted families of martyrs, the dear disabled veterans, and the resisting POWs—and guaranteed the victory.

He then condemned Iraqi transgression against Kuwait and said: The country that could not achieve its wicked objectives during eight years of war with Iran launched on this transgression against Kuwait, in order to make up for the defeat and achieve other treacherous goals. The country which, throughout the war, was pleased with

Iraq's transgression against Iran, supported this evil phenomenon and its grants of dollars amounted to its strengthening is itself the prisoner of transgression today. This aggression has created a ripe opportunity for a bigger aggression and a more vicious move. In order to prolong its dominance over oil, naturally the world at large and industrial countries in need of energy, in particular, the criminal America—contemplating to station its forces in the Persian Gulf and extend the scope of its aggression—took advantage of the opportunity and with the excuse of defending its vital interests—in response to the request of its selfless servant, the Sa'ud family—deployed its troops in the Persian Gulf. With the treachery of the Sa'ud family, not only the sacred Islamic lands have become the roaming ground for the unruly American Army, but also their expenses are being paid by the Al-Sa'ud from the Muslim treasury, and the expenses for the means for their lewdness is being paid in this way.

The speaker added: The drunken brawls of America in the Persian Gulf have taken a new shape and murmurs of creating changes in the geographic map of the area are being heard. Causing any change is among the most major dangers threatening the region. Muslims should not agree to any change in the geographic map of the region. The nation and government of Iran are against any change in the geographic composition of the region and will vehemently oppose such an evil phenomenon.

In another part of his speech, Mr. 'Azimi referred to the crimes of the Zionist regime and said: The bitter events of Black Monday in the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the sad events that followed demonstrate that the occupying regime of Qods has committed the most beastly and shameful acts in the occupied territories. Everyday the news of the massacre of innocent Palestinian children can be heard. The reactionary Arab rulers, with their deadly silence, have put a seal of approval on the beastly behavior of the occupiers of Qods and those who assault the rights of Muslims. On the other hand, the criminal America, who considers itself a so-called defender of human rights, not only endorses such vicious crimes but also prevents any political action against the Zionist regime by vetoing the UN Security Council resolution.

In reference to the recent issues, the representative of the people of Torqabeh and Chenaran remarked:

These days, inside the country, we have witnessed much hullabaloo by some individuals who, despite much claims but due to their miniscule wealth of knowledge, have not been able to find a way into the Assembly of Experts. These individuals and their few allies, at first by creating turmoil, questioned the Assembly of Experts' resolutions for changing the internal guidelines and, despite the fact that the exalted leader of the revolution considered these resolutions to be legitimate, did not refrain from their claims. After this phase, they focused their attacks against the jurists of the Council of Guardians who are among the most pious in this regime, appointed by His Eminence the late imam and endorsed by the exalted leadership. They insulted these beloved ones for their insistence on adherence to the law so that, by way of this turmoil, they could find their way into the Assembly of Experts. And, ultimately, in order to stop the Experts elections in most electoral constituencies, they suggested the plan "to affix the number of candidates." Since this plan was contrary to Principle 108 of the Constitution and the esteemed leadership of the Majles failed to remove this plan from the agenda of the Majles, despite legitimate warnings of the deputies, a number of revolutionary deputies, who are followers of the line of the imam and followers of Vali-ye Faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult], in line with their religious obligation and in order to defend the Constitution—this blood money of the revolutionary Iranian nation—neutralized this pre-planned move by the power-crazed with their revolutionary measure, which seriously offended the leaders of the negative trend [the opposition]. It was such that, with all their might, they tried to smear this divine-political move and we witnessed that the leadership of the Majles, in violation of their oath, by announcing the names of 55 of the 105 absent deputies on that day, demonstrated their political motivation.

Mr. 'Azimi attacked those who boycotted the Experts elections and said:

Despite the atmosphere of turmoil and trouble-making, which was created by the negative trend, elections for the second Assembly of Leadership Experts was held, ever more gloriously, and participated by millions of the hezbollah nation. In order to fulfill their religious obligation and in response to the divine call of their exalted leader, the people went to the polling stations and thus guaranteed the strength and well being of the Islamic revolution. However, regretfully, some from behind this sacred podium depicted a less-than-colorful picture of the people's presence and by offering incorrect statistics and wrong analyses tried to create doubt in the public's opinion. They tried to attach the honorable people, who cast their votes only as a way to fulfill their religious obligation, to their faction. They did not stop at this rude treatment of the people, but went further and called the views of those who believe in Islamic rule and divine rule, which is the rule from atop, as the black idea of reactionaries. They made this implication, which is the same reference that the treacherous shah associated with the exalted clergy, in connection with those who believe in this school. I must say that Islamic rule is the result of the prophet's appointment to lead humanity. Our exalted imam, the founder of the Islamic government in Iran, was the ardent defender of the absolute rule of the supreme jurisconsult. The exalted leader of the revolution is among the forerunners of the Islamic government and a defender of the absolute rule of the supreme jurisconsult. Also, our brave nation is among the most faithful believers of Velayat-e Faqih and their presence on all the revolutionary scenes has been promoting and effective. Who claims that the people have no role in the Islamic government? It is the people's votes and their covenant that make the regime acceptable, and if it were

different no elections would be held. What erroneous accusation and rejected thought is this that you are spreading?

He told those he was addressing: You are seeking democracy without Islam—one which you should look for in another place. The Islamic government prescribes freedom and democracy on the basis of Islam and this is the most valuable and stable of democracies. How come you who talk about freedom and democracy and on the same basis, from this and other podiums, make a mockery of everything and everyone—including all that is sacred to the people—do not allow your opponents to express their views and do not keep silent to hear the rightful answer?! You attack pre-agenda speakers, violate their legitimate rights, and tear up the text of a deputy's speech. Are you after this type of democracy? You who speak of democracy and the people's vote, if you take a look at your own votes for the third Majles you will see that less than 20 percent of the eligible voters in Tehran voted for you. Today, by adopting such a position, you will not even get that 20 percent. You are criticizing the high vote cast for Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani and His Eminence Ayatollah Yazdi and try to paint a less-than-colorful picture of the popular vote. Come to your senses and refrain from insulting all that is sacred to the people because neither the people nor we will allow such situation to persist.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Torqabeh and Chenaran spoke about the management of Khorasan Province:

An esteemed deputy, speaking from behind this podium, was disrespectful toward the esteemed governor-general because he had fired a number of individuals who had acted wrongly so that competent individuals could replace them. Regretfully, those who found their interests endangered and the brother whose brother was fired spoke against the governor-general from behind this podium.

Explanation of a Member of the Majles Leadership

Following the remarks of Mr. 'Azimi, Mr. Razavi, a member of the Majles leadership responsible for the roster of the Majles deputies, in his remarks, as a regulation warning said: From the day that some illegally occluded the Majles session, the leadership of the Majles has been repeatedly the subject of audacious remarks. From this point on, as a member of the Majles leadership, I do not consider silence to be appropriate.

In continuation, he said: Never has the number of deputies present in the Majles been over 190. On Sunday, 7 Oct 1990, when the gentlemen occluded the Majles, 138 deputies were present in the Majles and 55 were absent, the total of which comes to 193. We have never gone over this number.

He said: After the names of those 55 was announced as being absent, Messrs. Hashem Hejazi, Hasan Rowhani, and a few others announced that their absence had been due to reasons which were deemed legitimate by the leadership of the Majles and their names were taken off of the list. Therefore, the gentlemen have completely considered this equation to be wrong.

In continuation, he considered the closing down of the Majles an anti-revolutionary move and said: Were the gentlemen who stated that they considered the presence in the session to be contrary to the religion sources of emulation or did they seek a decree to this effect? From which source of emulation, who considered it to be sacrilegious, did they seek a decree?

He added: The gentlemen claim that Sunday was between two recesses and should have been made a recess. Do Muslims consider Saturday to be the Sabbath in order that we consider the closing down to be in between recesses?

The Remarks of Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji

The remarks of Mr. Razavi prompted the objection of a number of deputies and Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji, as a regulation warning, stated: In connection with the closing down on Sunday, 7 Oct 1990, there is no argument that the leadership had said that the Majles session will be held. Also there is no argument that it was not the official national holiday. However, as for the question of Mr. Razavi, asking if the Muslim Sabbath is on Saturday, the answer is no. The esteemed leadership of the Majles, not only as of late but also from previous periods, used to occlude the Saturday session. Therefore, our assertion that it was in between recesses meant that it was an unofficial holiday and which, finally, it was customary in the Majles regulation and the leadership has been aware of this. Also, another official holiday was the birthday of the prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) and it is not correct that the leadership engage in sophistry here.

Another issue was the question that, "Were the gentlemen who considered participation in the session to be sacrilegious sources of emulation or followers?" This does not require jurisprudence. We are not discussing jurisprudence or following here. Those who made this decision, be they jurists or followers and as it pertains to the issue, such a deed is forbidden or best not exercised. Therefore, the determination of the deed being forbidden or permitted is the sole responsibility of the individual—be they jurists or otherwise. Therefore, Mr. Razavi failed to pay attention to this religious point.

Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji then pointed out: Firstly, the number of absentees on that day was 105 people. If those absent were excused and you accept this—such as being ill, an accident, etc.—the number will not come to 50. Contrary to your previous method, you accepted the pleas of those who came to you and begged to be excused. However, those who firmly, decisively, and without any problem (in effect like yours truly who made an announcement and deliberately left the session) did this, you announced their names. So there should not be any difference between those who were absent.

Additional Remarks by Mr. Razavi

Mr. Razavi then requested for additional time which was granted. In his short explanation, he said: Altogether, we have 265 deputies of which 138 had signed cards on that day, meaning Sunday, 7 Oct 1990, and 32 were on official leave. From the remaining 95, a number of them informed us on that day—by calling or sending a letter—and explained in various ways that their absence was not to occlude the session on that day. Even from the 55 whose names were announced, five of them later wrote to explain that their failure to be present was not due to the occlusion. Mr. Rowhani was on a trip to Africa. Mr. Reza Zehi was attending a speech marking Solidarity Week. Their letters are available and are being kept by the Majles leadership. We announced the names of those who came and signed the roster because they did not know if they should participate in the session or not and, later, when told that they should not participate, crossed out their signatures. We announced the names of the culprits who caused the incident on Sunday, 7 Oct 1990. We did not state that this is the list of those who were absent. We said this is the list of the culprits who caused the occlusion. Therefore, if any of those 50 say that we were not among the culprits, we will cross out his name and will announce it so—unlike Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji who decidedly stated that, "My objective was not to participate."

He then said: The gentlemen used to say that the plan "to affix the number of deputies" was contrary to the Constitution. This determination is the responsibility of the Council of Guardians and not you. The Majles cannot be occluded as a result of personal views.

Mr. Razavi added: That plan's double-urgency provision was approved and, according to the directive of the exalted leader of the revolution, whenever a plan has been approved it cannot be violated. Why didn't you respect the vote of the people and why did you halt the double-urgency?!

Edicts

The report of RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent indicates that the first item on yesterday's agenda was the report of the first round of deliberations of the judicial and legal affairs commission concerning the generalities of the plan to assign the authority to approve the bylaws of nine companies to the government which, after discussions and investigation, the generalities were put to a vote and did not pass.

Also, formerly this plan had been recommended to the judicial and legal affairs commission. However, due to the importance of some of the companies stated in the plan and the necessity of the Majles to be informed about the quality of the authorized bylaws, the plan was rejected.

The second item on the agenda was the report of the second round of deliberations of the special commission concerning the legal plan for the charter of the National Iranian Library which, after investigation by proponents and opponents, continuation of its investigation was postponed until the next session of the Majles.

The Islamic Consultative Majles will hold an open session tomorrow.

*Several Airports Equipped With Security Devices

91AS0225C Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 31 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] Shiraz—KEYHAN News Agency—With the installation of the x-ray inspection system at Shiraz International Airport, passenger luggage will henceforth be inspected without opening suitcases and luggage.

This was announced in an interview with our correspondent by Engineer Mahmud 'Alikhani, general manager of Fars Province airports. Noting the large volume of flights at Martyr Ayatollah Dastgheyb International Airport, he said: For the sake of passenger comfort and to keep from wasting time and disrupting suitcases and luggage, and also to minimize the use of security forces to protect flight security, this system has been put to use at the aforementioned airport, and in taking this measure the National Air Travel Organization has pleased the people.

Engineer 'Alikhani added: The x-ray system will be used both at the general airport entry hall and at the transit hall at Shiraz Airport, and in this way passenger luggage will be monitored and final inspections will be made.

In conclusion, he announced: Along with Martyr Ayatollah Dastgheyb International Airport of Shiraz, the airports at Mashhad, Esfahan, and Bandar 'Abbas have also been equipped with x-ray systems.

Pakistan

Libyan Envoy Condemns U.S. Presence in Gulf

BK2811144690 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 27—Islamic forces should jointly demand the withdrawal of US troops from Saudi Arabia as they pose a constant danger to the socioeconomic structure and Islamic values. Moreover, it would also lead to a bloody war in the Gulf.

These views were expressed by Ibrahim-el-Jerbi, [name as published] the Libyan Secretary of People's Bureau in Pakistan. He said war in the Middle East was inevitable and Libya would side with Iraq, he told a reporter who wanted to know as to how would Libya react if US did not withdraw its troops from Saudi Arabia.

Libya opposed American troops as its intentions were not good, he said. The American troops, he said, should be replaced by an Islamic force as it was the best way to protect Saudi Arabia against outside aggression.

If war breaks out, the sufferers would be no one else but the Muslims, he said.

He spoke of the Libyan efforts, made inthe recent past, to resolve the issue. Iraq must withdraw its forces as it was necesary to bridge the communication gap between. Iraq and Kuwait. However, such an issue should be resolved at a meeting to be attended by the Islamic nations.

What is painful is the escalating US intervention in the region. Washington must not be allowed to poke her nose into others' issues, he said.

Libya, he said, had formally asked the United Nations secretary General to keep US away from the scene. An emergency session of the Security Council should be called at Geneva to find out a solution of the issue. Such a meeting must be attended only by Muslim countries as US presence in it would only complicate the problem.

He said Libya had formally proposed some steps, which he hoped, would help end the tension between the two brotherly countries.

The steps included withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and replacement of US troops by the Islamic forces, he added.

UN Envoy Calls Kashmir 'Disputed Territory'

BK2911081090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Kashmir is a disputed territory and uprising of its people against Indian occupation is not an internal problem of India. This has been stated by the Pakistani delegate, Mr. Javed Hussain, in the UN General Assembly's Social Committee during a debate on human rights question. The Pakistani delegate said India could not escape responsibility for the grave and gross violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir by making baseless allegations of interference against Pakistan.

Kuwaiti Delegation Chief on Compensation

BK2911093690 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] The leader of the visiting Kuwaiti people's delegation, (Seyyed Yusuf al-Rifa'i), has expressed the hope that the international communities will take suitable action to get Iraq out of Kuwait. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said no Arab solution of the Gulf crisis was possible because of the split in the Arab world. He thanked Pakistan for its support to Kuwait to regain its sovereignty. He said during a meeting with the prime minister he was informed that Pakistan had always been opposed to aggression by a powerful state against a smaller country. Turning to the difficulties being faced by the Pakistanis, who had been (?stranded) in Kuwait, (Seyyed al-Rifa'i) said all foreign nationals, who were forced to leave their belongings, will be compensated after the restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty.

Mirage Fighter Aircraft Arrive From Australia

BK2911121590 Lahore THE NATION in English 29 Nov 90 p 12

[Text] Karachi—The first batch of 32 used Mirage fighter aircrafts out of 50 purchased by Pakistan from Australia have arrived at the Karachi Port. The remaining will be shipped soon.

Disclosing this in Karachi on Wednesday at a lunch hosted by Honorary Counsul of New Zealand for Pakistan, Mr Moin M. Fudda, Australian High Commissioner in Pakistan, Mr. G.J. Price, said that Mirage fighter planes inducted in Australian Air Force in the 1960s and phased out few years back, had been sold to Pakistan Air Force under a commercial contract which also includes supply of spare parts.

Referring to economic relations between Pakistan and Australia, he said there was scope for further enlarging them in various fields and added there were bright prospects for increasing export of goods both ways. At present, the balance of trade was in favour of Australia but pointed out that this could be narrowed down in years to come if Pakistani businessmen explore new markets for their goods in his country.

According to Mr. Price possibilities exist for cooperation between the two countries in exploring mineral deposits including gold in the northern areas.

To a question, he said bilateral trade had increased by 65 per cent since 1988-89 and said his government was assisting Pakistani exporters to identify markets for their goods in Australia.

In telecommunication he said an Australian firm recently won contract to instal a fibre optical transmission between Islamabad and Karachi.—APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN]

Premier Unhappy at PDA Joining Balochistan

BK2811143890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Nov 90 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Nov 27—Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif Tuesday [27 November] expressed "unhappiness" over PDA MPA's [Progressive Democratic Alliance members of provincial assembly] inclusion in the Balochistan cabinet when Chief Minister Mir Taj Jamali made his first call on him since assumption of office, it is reliably learnt.

The piece of "advice" given by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to the Chief Minister whom he also met was couched in the following generalised words apparently meant for federal and provincial administration: "The newly-elected governments should make justice and merit their guiding principles and honesty and efficiency their hallmarks to look different from their predecessors."

Jamali met the President and the Premier heading delegations comprising his ministers. He pleaded for increased funds to accelerate the pace of development in his province.

Ministers Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and Yaqub Nasir and some Senators belonging to Balochistan were present in Jamali's meeting with Prime Minister.

A participant told THE MUSLIM that Mian Nawaz Sharif held out an assurance to the Chief Minister that his administration would provide the desired funds to make Balochistan an "exemplary" province development wise.

He said the Premier told Jamali that the induction of PDA men in the provincial cabinet had not been done with prior approval of the IJI. [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad]. The Chief Minister spelt out reasons for their inclusion.

Jamali explained that theirs was a tribal society where political affiliations did not matter too much and that he took the decision keeping in view "local considerations," the participant said.

The participant said the Premier counselled the Chief Minister to work in a spirit of accommodation with Nawab Akbar Bugti because the latter had "cooperated with us for a long time." Jamali aired serious reservations against his predecessor, and said Bugti resorted to "strong arm methods" during the electoral process and polling.

Moments after being named as Chief Minister Jamali had taken a stunning action against over a dozen deputy commissioners accusing them of commiting irregularities and "rigging." His anger was, in fact, directed at Nawab Bugti. However, the Premier's reported advice to him today indicates that the federal government has not "written off" the Bugti option strengthening a general view prevailing in the Federal capital in this connection.

One of the federal ministers, the participlant said, resented Jamali's charge of rigging to which the Chief Minister pinpointed certain constituencies where it was resorted to. The minister told him that he (Jamali) should not generalise random incidents of electoral irregularitics for the entire province. He said the Chief Minister should not blow up "local differences," the participant told this reporter.

The minister also told Jamali that the PDA candidates had won from the areas where he had alleged electoral minipulation. "How can they succeed if there was rigging," he asked.

The President emphasised that in the recent elections, the people were guided by a desire to have a better, cleaner and more efficient government which would be responsive to their needs and aspirations. This desire, he said, must be fulfilled to keep the people's trust and their support, says a handout.

The delegation invited the President's attention to various development needs of Balochistan, particularly in communications, education, health, power and industrialisation. [passage omitted]

Army Said Fully Backing Democratic Process

BK2811140290 Lahore THE NATION in English 28 Nov 90 p 8

[Text] London—Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif on Monday refuted all charges against Pakistan Army and stressed that it was Pakistan Army under the leadership of Gen Aslam Beg that helped promote and strengthen the democratic process in Pakistan.

In pieces of interviews stread over in an obviously slanted BBC Television programme shown on Channel 2 under the title. "The Generals' Democracy", Mian Nawaz Sharif said the armed forces were fully backing the democratic process which had been further proved by the holding of fair and free elections in the country.

The programme included brief interviews and comments by Opposition Leader Ms Benazir Bhutto, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Faiz Ali Chishti, Commandant Sindh Regiment Zakir Ali, Lt. Gen. Rahim Dil, Anthony Hyman, Dr Gohar Rizvi, Ms Maliha Lodhi, a taxi driver and his wife.

Rebutting all the allegations, Mian Nawaz Sharif said had the army wanted to capture power and impose Martial Law it would have done it in 1988 after the death of Gen Ziaul Haq. But it preferred to help strengthen the democratic process and supported the programme for holding of elections as a result of which Ms Bhutto came to power.

Replying to a question he said his government fully understood the requirements of the armed forces and those of the national development and both would be met within "our resources", he said there was no clash between the two.

He referred to the sharp increase in oil prices as a result of the Gulf crisis, and said these were responsible for increase in the prices of other commodities. He said the government was adopting necessary measures to remedy the situation.

The Prime Minister said it was true that Gen Zia appointed him Punjab's Finance Minister but he also fought the election and defeated the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] in Punjab. "We have been elected by the people of Pakistan", he declared.

Mian Nawaz Sharif said it would be better for Ms Benazir Bhutto and her party to accept their defeat in a dignified manner.

The Prime Minister refuted the PPP charges of rigging in the elections and said if there was any one party that indulged in the rigging of polls it was the PPP itself.

He said his government believed in rapid industrialisation for improving country's economic situation. For this the government was launching a comprehensive programme for investment both within and outside the country. The government, he said had planned to give lot of incentives.—APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN]

Mojaddedi Says Afghan Elections Scheduled

BK2711163090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] The president of interim government of Afghanistan, Professor Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, has said that a three-member delegation will be sent to Iran for formulating the election schedule in Afghanistan in collaboration with the leaders of Afghan refugees. He was addressing a news conference in Peshawar today. He said that the elections would be held in different parts of Afghanistan within four to six months on the basis of the unanimously agreed schedule. He expressed the hope that the new government in Pakistan would continue support for early solution of Afghan issue.

Mojaddedi Hopes Sharif Will Recognize AIG

BK2811150290 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Nov 90 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, Nov 27—Prof [Professor] Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, President Afghan Interim Government (AIG) said another attempt to get the AIG recognised by Islamabed was being made and he was confident that the Nawaz Sharif's Government would not be averse to the idea.

He was addressing the press here Tuesday [27 November] on his return from a visit to Iran and the liberated areas of Afghanistan. He described his visit as useful.

He said as he was out of Pakistan he had not been able to establish contact with Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif. But he, however, said he was looking forward to meeting him in the near future. He hoped the present government would be more supporting to the Afghan cause.

The AIG President categorically denied that he or any other representative of the Interim Government met Dr Najibullah in Geneva or in Iran. He said there was absolutely no truth in these reports. He said the Afghan resistance could talk to the Russians, the Americans or for that matter any body else in the world in search of a solution to the Afghan problem, but there was no question of talking to Dr Najib. He, however, told a questioner that a committee could be set up to discuss the issue with Najibullah but only after he had surrendered the power to people.

Dr Najib, he remarked, didn't represent any segment of the Afghans and was responsible for causing large scale killings and destruction in Afghanistan.

Briefly discussing the outcome of his talks with the Iranian leaders he said the Iran government had assured him of its containued support to the Afghan cause. He said the Afghans in Iran, who were divided into seven parties had formed one party—Hizbe Wahdat. The Hizbe had agreed to fully participate in the struggle against the Kabul regime. He disclosed that setting up of a committee comprising equal number of representatives from Iran and Pakistan based refugees had been agreed upon. The committee will plan the holding of elections in Afghanistan and the elected Loya Jerga [Grand Assembly] will decide the composition of the new Afghan government. He said beside making efforts to find a political settlement of the Afghan problem, the AIG was also trying to strengthen its military operations.

Prof Mojaddadi told anorther questioner that no proposal had been received from former King Zahir Shah vis-a-vis the Afghan problem. He said that any reasonable proposal coming from any quarer would be looked into provided it was in the intrest of the Afghans.

Sri Lanka

State Chief Urged To Probe LTTE Arms Factory

BK2911080190 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0454 GMT 29 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 29 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne yesterday suggested that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi should probe a little more deeply into the story that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] run textile and small arms factories in Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Wijeratne said he was ready to accept Mr. Karunanidhi's denial of his (Mr. Wijeratne's) charge, but, he said, in view of earlier experience of the central government denying militant training camps and the current controversy between Mr. Karunanidhi and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, it would be better for Mr. Karunanidhi to probe a little more, Mr. Wijeratne said.